Welcome to the 13th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium

If just a spark can ignite change, then what does progress look like?

MARCH 9 & 10 2017

Hosted by the Department of Sociology Graduate Student Caucus
University of Calgary
Cassio Room, MacEwan Hall
welcome!

to the 13th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium

The Sociology Graduate Student Caucus is excited to host the 13th year of the GSRS! This interdisciplinary symposium hosts graduate students from a number of faculties across the University of Calgary. Focusing on the social aspects of graduate student work, the GSRS provides graduate students with the opportunity to connect on similar ideas, receive meaningful feedback, and practice presenting and teaching. We thank all of the presenters for participating and we are excited to engage with your research.

As part of our ‘GSRS committee asks’ promotion, we asked our presenters to pick an ‘about their research’ question so we could get to know more about them. The answers are fantastic so be sure to look for them.

Join us for the Keynote Cocktail Reception!

Keynote Address with Erica Wiebe:
“How the path to success in women’s wrestling, and the idea of progress, often begins in failure”

See page 40 for our interview with Erica

Reception includes drink tickets, appetizers, and door prizes!
Graduate Student Research Symposium Schedule

Thursday March 9, Cassio Room, MacEwan Hall

9:30 – 10:00  Registration / Breakfast
10:00 – 11:10  Theory & Economics  Chair: Dr. Dean Curran  P 4
11:20 – 12:30  Gender  Chair: Dr. Fiona Nelson  P 9
12:30 – 1:10  Lunch
1:10 – 2:20  Education  Chair: Dr. Stephen Dumas  P 14
2:30 – 3:40  Social Justice & Criminology  Chair: Dr. Ted McCoy  P 19

Friday March 10, Cassio Room, MacEwan Hall

9:20 – 9:50  Registration / Breakfast
9:50 – 11:00  Health & Health Care  Chair: Dr. Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot  P 23
11:10 – 12:20  Urban Planning  Chair: Dr. Matt Patterson  P 29
12:20 – 1:00  Lunch
1:00 – 2:10  History & Culture  Chair: Dr. Amal Madibbo  P 35

Friday March 10, Senate Room, Hotel Alma

2:30 – 5:30  Keynote Cocktail Reception
2:50 – 3:20  Keynote Address: Erica Wiebe  P 40
(Mis)recognition: Can the Fraser-Honneth Debate Help Overcome Fanon’s Problematique.

Reiss Kruger
MA Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

G. W. F. Hegel’s ‘master-slave’ dialectic has stood as a central basis for social theories of consciousness for 210 years. Despite its brilliance, the work of Frantz Fanon points out how this dialectic is complicated by the issue of race, preventing racialized groups from truly being recognized as fellow consciousnesses in the Hegelian fashion. By reconnecting Fanon’s critique to its source, this paper directly engages with a historical theoretical problem which has contemporary consequences. The recent debate between Nancy Fraser and Axel Honneth (over the role of recognition in the construction and maintenance of society) may at first glance seem of only cursory relevance to this historical problem, but the author argues that a connection in the form of a shared focus on recognition can bridge the historical divide between Fanon’s critique and contemporary theory.

The debate between Fraser and Honneth is detailed, along with Hegel’s account of consciousness, and Fanon’s critique of this account, to the end of bringing centuries of theorizing about consciousness and recognition, (and their respective roles in the construction and maintenance of healthy and positive societies) into dialogue. Concluding with a discussion of the value of dialogue and dialectic in the progression of recognition in societies, the author argues that the teleological language of ends is appropriate in contemporary debate, and that older theorists (such as, but not limited to, Hegel) still have much to offer contemporary theory.
"What was the inspiration for your paper?"

Hegel has for a long time formed the bedrock of a lot of theoretical support for many papers and projects I've done over the years. His account of consciousness allows for the knowing of the world and an escape from Cartesian solipsism. Not many use philosophers such as Hegel as a foundation for sociological work, but philosophy has always undergirded sociological theory. A classic example of this if Frantz Fanon, who took Hegel's account of consciousness and added the problematic of race into the mix. This had/has dire consequences for not only the day-to-day imposition of power on racialized groups, but on the actual consciousness of those same groups. The inspiration for my topic was Fanon's critique of Hegel's account of consciousness, combined with two theorists I was - at the time - covering in a graduate theory course: Nancy Fraser and Axel Honneth. I chose to see if either Fraser (who postulated a combined theory of recognition and redistribution) or Honneth (who believed all social problems could be subsumed under recognition) had the theoretical tools to overcome the problematique of Fanon.

Hegel has been the bedrock of much of my developing theoretical knowledge, so when the opportunity to address this important critique presented itself, I was very interested in pursuing it.
The 2013 Southern Alberta Flood: Risk Mitigation Strategies and Perceptions of Risk and Resiliency

Victoria Stamper
MA Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

Detailed analyses of space-specific experiences of resilience are important considerations that have the potential to help individuals and communities adequately prepare and respond to disasters (Cutter, Burton, & Emrich, 2010). Using over 20 coded interviews from Dr. Tim Haney’s research project, “Risk, Development, and Environmental Change After the Southern Alberta Flood,” this presentation explores the complexity of resilience unique to the eclectic communities of Calgary. Findings from this data highlight connections between risk mitigation strategies and the ways in which these strategies heavily influence how flood-affected individuals and communities form risk and resilience perceptions.

References:

The GSRS committee asked Victoria

“What was the inspiration for your presentation topic?”

My experiences during the 2013 Southern Alberta Floods had a pivotal impact on my personal and sociological perspectives. In the years following the flood, I received the opportunity to work as a research assistant on a SSHRC funded research project—Dr. Timothy Haney’s “Risk, Development, and Environmental Change After the Southern Alberta Flood”. Through this research project I have had the privilege of interviewing flood affected residents of Calgary; this presentation is inspired by these individuals and their experiences of flood risk and disaster resilience.
Empowering Maritime Communities: The Antigonish Movement and Study Clubs

Laura Jurgens
Doctoral Candidate, Department of Classics and Religion, University of Calgary

Maritime Provinces in Canada faced a declining economy due to changing market demands and power imbalances between owners and sellers, especially during the nineteenth century. The Antigonish movement originated from a pursuit to solve such persisting socio-economic problems afflicting Maritime populations. Studies maintain that the Antigonish movement was prosperous because it contained elements from both economic and social initiatives. This paper discusses the social aspects of the Antigonish movement in order to help further explain why this movement benefited from having a multi-faceted nature. This paper argues that the social aspects of the movement, such as study clubs, empowered Maritime communities to find solutions for existing economic disparities and improved their overall economic status.
When Tumblr was launched in 2007, its creator David Karp developed a rhetoric that invited creative individuals to use Tumblr for sharing their talent. It is no surprise that Tumblr subsequently cultivated a large community of artists, which was later mobilized to establish its brand as a space for creators. In cultivating a brand that invites users to “follow the world’s creators,” the Tumblr platform benefits from organizing creative talent in a way that generates social capital for the company.

Despite the exploitative implications of this development, existing research on Tumblr and art remains mostly positive. For example, artist and art theorist Brad Troemel (2014) asserts that Tumblr has created a benevolent environment for artists that allows them to develop new systems of distribution. These new pathways have in turn enabled artists to form new relationships with their audiences, alongside alternative communities within which they can explore new ways of producing artwork. However, such perspectives uphold the notion that the internet, and Tumblr in particular, is a space in which inequalities do not exist.

As such, my argument builds from a series of interviews conducted over email from September 2016 to January 2017 with GIF artists using Tumblr to distribute and exhibit their art, form communities and networks amongst each other and other non-artistic users, and establish their own brands and personas. These interviews reflect the thoughts and feelings of artists who view Tumblr as a tool for their own artistic practices, and who had not previously given much thought to the ways in which the platform monetized their activities and talents. The fact that most responses adhere to the positive perspective on Tumblr as an artistic community reveals the pervasiveness of the platform’s branding and insidiousness of its commodification of artists.

References:
Troemel, B. (2014). Art after social media. In O. Kholeif (Ed.), You Are Here: Art After the Internet (pp. 36-46). Manchester: Cornerhouse and SPACE.
Representations of Women Rugby Athletes in Print Media Covering the 2016 Rio Olympics

Martine Dennie
Doctoral Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

Women athletes are often characterized as embodying masculine traits, particularly when they are participating in male appropriate sports. These sports are generally more aggressive and physical than female appropriate sports, which are sports that focus on appearance and are typically more graceful and without contact. It can be argued that women in female appropriate sports receive more media coverage than women in male appropriate sports, not only in quantity but also quality. This paper is an exploratory study that seeks to examine how print media represented women’s rugby (a male appropriate sport) in the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Summer Olympic Games. Using a sample of print media from Canadian newspapers, I examine how the media framed the women’s rugby sevens team, and how the media adopted an apologetic approach to the women. I discuss how the themes that emerged from the sample under study reinforce the gender stereotypes attached to women athletes. The sample shows that print media generally focus on topics unrelated to the athletic skill and dominance of the Canadian rugby sevens team. Rather, the articles touch on the future of rugby and women’s sport in Canada, and the athlete’s families, appearances, and emotions.
The purpose of this research is to look at fan communities surrounding otome games and explore the gender norms that are discussed by these communities in an online context. Otome games are a subgenre of dating simulation games targeted at teenage girls and young women, often depicting young women as protagonists in heterosexual relationships. While research has been done regarding online fan communities (Jenkins, 2006), there is a gap concerning dating simulation and visual novel games including otome games, particularly in regard to gender. This research will involve a content analysis of the popular otome game “Amnesia: Memories” regarding gender and relationship norms reflected in this game, as well as research into how online fan communities interact to discuss gendered issues in relation to the game and the relationships depicted within.

References:
Gender Performance Through the Body: A Hermeneutic Exploration of Learning within the Hair Industry

Carly Drake
Doctoral Candidate, Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary

Dr. Scott Radford
Associate Dean, Teaching & Learning, Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary

The human body is as much sociological as it is biological; it is a physical site of identity construction, the articulation of sociocultural norms and values, and a hotly contested political entity. Hair, in particular, is a channel for consumers’ self-expression. However, since curating one’s appearance is a public as well as a personal act, hair is also subject to critique. Hair-related norms and values are distinctly gendered. Consumers are expected to “perform” gender correctly in relation to their hair, lest they face social and professional consequences. Research has begun to explore the role of hair professionals as agents in influencing consumers’ decision-making around their hair. Yet, such research has not yet sufficiently articulated (1) how these hair professionals acquire their body-related knowledge; (2) how this knowledge is gendered; and (3) how it is transmitted to consumers. Preliminary data from semi-structured interviews interpreted through a poststructuralist feminist lens provide insight into these topics. Specifically, hair professionals’ lifelong experiences working with their own hair are powerful teachers in guiding their salon practice – perhaps just as powerful as their educational experiences. Taken together, both personal and educational learning has gendered elements aligned with or against hair-related norms and values depending on the professional’s outlook on the body and their professional duty as a service provider. Offered to consumers as guidance, professionals’ learning forms the hair “gospel” that determines what makes an [un]acceptable gender performance through hair. These findings have implications for theory surrounding gender, the body, and autonomy and agency in the context of services marketing.
The GSRS committee asked Carly

"If you could hang out with one academic / activist / person in your field (dead or alive), who, why, and what would you ask them?"

I know I'm not alone as a marketing scholar when I say I'd love to meet Russell Belk, a researcher at York University. Belk was instrumental in bringing sociological and anthropological perspectives into marketing research. His work helped push the field beyond questions of how to get people to buy things towards questions of why people buy things and how they engage with them. In the 1980s, he and several colleagues toured the United States in a van on a research trip they called the Odyssey, stopping at places like swap meets and trailer parks to ask people about their collections and totems and prized possessions. I would love to ask Belk about that trip, and about what it was like to experience such a sea change in marketing research.
Navigating the Visibility of Acne: Femininity, Embodiment and the Lived Experiences of Women with Adult Facial Acne

Katelyn Steinwand
BA Honours Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

In a society where appearance is so deeply valued, presenting with persistent visible acne can be difficult terrain to navigate. Expectations to uphold idealized depictions of attractiveness and beauty add an extra layer of strain and difficulty to the experience of a disease that is already, in itself, stigmatizing. For adult women experiencing acne, these gendered social expectations often translate into a disproportionate degree of self-consciousness, embarrassment, shame and self-blame as compared to their male counterparts. Research concerning the specific ways in which adult women with acne experience stigmatization, as well as how they live with and manage the work of dealing with the condition is quite limited. By conducting a series of qualitative, in-depth interviews with a small sample of adult women who experience persistent facial acne, this research seeks to acknowledge in detail the lived, embodied experiences of women with persistent facial acne. It will strive to reveal the different forms of psychological, physical, emotional and resistance work and management techniques these women undertake in order to navigate acne as gendered bodies embedded within a structure of social controls and a network of socially formed notions concerning femininity. It is hoped that the insights gained through this study will contribute to an expanded understanding of acne as a disease inseparable from the social realm, and as uniquely experienced and problematized through the gendering of female bodies. This research is currently in progress and this presentation will report on the data gathered thus far and offer a preliminary analysis based on those findings.
Purpose: In Canada, the 65+ population will increase from 3.92 million in 2001 to 6.7 million in 2021 [1]. Given this dramatic demographic shift, the need for trained practitioners from key disciplines such as social work is vital. The purpose of this study is to examine gerontology courses offered by Canadian Social Work schools to identify current focus areas as well as curriculum gaps and recommendations.

Methodology: An environmental scan is being conducted of course offerings across Canada. The study involves two phases: 1) examine gerontology course outlines offered by accredited social work schools, and 2) contact gerontology program coordinators to share key learnings and recommendations.

Findings: Preliminary findings to date indicate that there are 41 accredited schools of Social Work in Canada. Twenty-one of the schools reviewed so far offer at least one gerontology course. Curriculum details, gaps, and recommendations from all 41 schools are forthcoming.

Discussion: The findings from this study will: 1) generate knowledge about gerontology training in Social Work schools across Canada; 2) provide insight into existing gerontology focus areas; and 3) identify curriculum gaps and recommendations to align gerontological Social Work curriculum with opportunities and challenges arising from an increasing aging population in Canada.

References
The GSRS committee asked Allegra

“What was the inspiration for your thesis / dissertation topic?”

In spite of the rapidly aging population, the Faculty of Social Work phased out its Master of Social Work gerontology concentration a number of years ago. At the time, it was decided that gerontology could be infused into the new specializations (Leadership, Clinical, International and Community Development). To date, however, the integration of gerontology into the current curriculum in the Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work programs is lacking and represents a profound gap in the education of Faculty of Social Work graduates.

Conversations between the researchers and community stakeholders have highlighted this gap and the need for more intentional efforts to prepare students for practice with an aging population. This gap has also been echoed by faculty and students who focus on gerontology but have few opportunities to teach and learn in their areas of interest.

Limited gerontological social work learning opportunities creates an academic culture which marginalizes vulnerable older adults requiring the services of social workers, and contributes to a lack of preparedness of social work practitioners working with this age group. To address these issues, further research is needed to identify recommendations for developing gerontological social work curriculum, assessing students’ learnings about core competencies related to practice with older adults, and engaging community stakeholders in curriculum design and delivery.
Leadership in Action

Simone Lange
Doctoral Candidate, Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary

The focus of this Ph. D Thesis is leadership in action. Specifically to explore the phenomena of female students’ leadership experiences among adolescents at five (5) noted co-educational high schools in Calgary, Alberta. It will examine school ethos and the impact that leadership has made on the second, third and fourth generations of the citizens of Calgary. A mixed study approached is used with emphasis on the qualitative approach employing purposive criterion sampling as well as random sampling. An exploration of this phenomena should lead to better understanding of which gender appears to be demonstrating greater leadership responsibilities / potential and why is this so.

In doing so the study intends to explore the meaning of and feelings of individual leaders and how this affect school climate in general. The study is not intended to make generalisations but perhaps can give greater insights of other comparable situations with similar characteristics. Rectification of gender leadership imbalance is needed among adolescents by putting emphasis on the subservient gender if co-educational schools are to produce the type of ‘holistic’ student who can make a meaningful contribution to society.
Graduate Student Peer Mentorship: Progress Towards Achieving a Better Graduate Student Experience

Lorelli Nowell
Doctoral Candidate, Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary

Background: Enrolment in Canadian graduate education programs continues to increase each year; however, due to various factors, including social isolation, many students leave university without completing their advanced degrees. While research suggests that peer mentorship may increase students’ social connectedness and motivation to complete their degrees, little is known about graduate students’ attitudes and preferences with respect to peer mentorship, or the impact that peer mentorship has on furthering the learning needs of these students.

Objectives: We conducted a systematic review to explore the impact of peer mentorship on graduate students learning and current approaches to enhancing these relationships.

Methods: We searched eight multidisciplinary databases without limitations on language, date, or study design. Studies were included if they reported on the peer mentoring experiences of graduate students, or evaluated initiatives to further the development of these relationships.

Results: Of the 1070 studies identified, 47 studies reported on peer mentorship in graduate education and were included in our review. Current models for graduate student peer mentorship included dyadic, peer-led, and supervisor-led models that often developed organically. Research further suggests that peer mentorship positively affected a number of developmental outcomes across four broad domains of learning: academic, social, psychological, and career.

Conclusions: While peer mentorship positively impacts graduate students’ learning and ongoing development, more rigorous research is needed to determine how best to design formal peer mentorship programs that can effectively address the diverse needs of graduate students.
Adolescent sexual health is a significant concern to parents, educators, health professionals, and policy makers. Research suggests, however, that there are challenges with school-based sexuality education in terms of both its content and its delivery. There is a lack of attention in the curriculum to the impact of gender ideologies on the development and expression of adolescent sexuality as well as a tendency to exclude boys and young men by focusing primarily on the sexual and reproductive needs of girls and young women. This presentation discusses focus group and participant observation findings from research with facilitators of WiseGuyz, a local school-based sexual health promotion program. Preliminary findings identify the process of facilitation as being equally important as the curriculum content in securing positive outcomes for the boys. Implications for school-based sexuality education will be discussed, as well as the direction of my own further research in this area.

The GSRS committee asked Caroline

"If you could hang out with one academic / activist / person in your field (dead or alive), who, why, and what would you ask them?"

_Michael Kimmel is by far the academic I want to be when I grow up. I had the opportunity to hang with him while he was in town guest speaking at an event. I had been dying to ask him about a fellow masculinities scholar, whose findings and subsequent theory development I am not sure I agree with. He was awesome, confirming for me why I can’t get behind the findings and theory!_
Liberation and Citizenship: Rights for Non-Human Animals in Canada

Savanna Havinga
BA Honours Student, Department of Sociology, Law and Society, University of Calgary

While diverse groups have made appreciable gains in the struggle for social justice in Canada, recognition of the rights for non-human animals continues to lag behind. Non-human animals continue to suffer under conditions considered both socially and legally permissible. As part of a more expansive project dedicated to social justice, a more equitable account of rights must be developed for non-human animals. In the face of continued resistance and confusion surrounding animal rights, a pragmatic approach based on a political theory of citizenship should be employed. Such an approach both attempts to reconcile the exploitation of non-human animals as well as contend with the fact that many non-human animals form an integral part of the human community. To consider the logistic concerns of implementing citizenship for nonhumans, it is insightful to examine previous gains by social advocates in Canada. By considering the tactics and methods employed by slavery abolitionists, female marriage reformers and disability theorists, it is possible to begin conceptualizing citizenship for non-human animals.
The Negotiation of Housing First

Christopher Kohut
BA Honours Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

Homelessness policies across North American have been increasingly oriented around the ‘Housing First’ paradigm, which prioritizes the provision of housing before addressing other needs such as illness or employment. Through the application of a Housing First model, Calgary’s plan looks to focus their resources on the most vulnerable populations experiencing homelessness. This approach became guided by an evidence-based policy analysis that awards housing to those individuals deemed to be most financially costly to the state. This research will analytically dissect the implications of this new form of policy analysis and compare that to the actual experiences of the homeless population accessing these services. My research finds that housing first policies confront homeless people with a series of dilemmas that must be negotiated and solved in various ways. This paper will explore three of these dilemmas. Firstly, I show how homeless individuals are often encouraged or forced to embellish their own personal crises in order to gain access to housing. Secondly, I demonstrate the necessity and challenge experienced by the homeless to adhere to the prescriptions of what a homeless person needs to be in order to get services. Lastly, I explore the loss of community experienced by individuals once they finally receive housing.

The GSRS committee asked Chris

"What was the inspiration for your thesis / dissertation topic?"

I have worked in the homeless sector for 5 years now and met many inspirational people. What really began to bother me was how many people I witnessed everyday slowly falling through the cracks of the system and not being given a chance to try and get out of homelessness. I wanted to provide an outlet for these individuals to express their experiences with various programs and agencies that are attempting to eliminate homelessness.
A Comparison of Rural and Urban Communities’ Perceptions of Policing in Canada

Stephanie Cantlay
MA Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

Overall, Canadians appear to have favourable perceptions of police. However, there appears to be some disparity between Canadians living in rural areas and those living in urban centres. Residents living in rural areas may feel they are not as important to police as compared to residents living in urban areas due to residents in urban areas being easily accessible for police calls (Ruddell, Lithopoulos, & Jones, 2014). In addition to this, urban residents may be closer in proximity to other neighbours and have a better sense of community (Kelly & Caputo, 2011). The purpose of this study is to examine the public’s perceptions of policing across Canadian provinces by comparing the perceptions of those living in rural communities to those in urban neighbourhoods and, in addition, to examine whether understandings of community inclusion and procedural justice differ between rural and urban communities and subsequently influence perceptions of policing, controlling for other factors known to affect perceptions of policing such as gender, age, visible minority and socio-economic status. Using population-level data collected by Statistics Canada, the General Social Survey Victimization Cycle (Cycle #28) from 2014, the study will assess whether differences in urban and rural perceptions of police can be explained by different concepts of community inclusion and procedural justice between rural and urban communities. Preliminary results suggest that there is a statistically significant difference in perceptions of policing between rural residents and urban residents in Canada. It is predicted that community inclusion could moderate or mediate this relationship. It is anticipated that a better understanding of rural – urban differences in perceptions of police will be important to police agencies in order to improve service delivery, develop training programs, and clarify hiring policies.

References:

Justice for All: Examining the Use of Legislation to Define Dignity in Indigence

Alexandra Bui
BA Honours Student, Department of Sociology, Law and Society, University of Calgary

The largest urban centres in Canada from Vancouver and Victoria in the west, to Halifax in the east have increasingly employed the paradox of first recognizing the presence of a steady homeless population, who like all other citizens are entitled to a sense of worth and dignity, and then using increasingly punitive measures against them which attack those entitlements; subtly by some municipalities, if not brazen and direct like others. The focus of this project is divided into two large discussions. The first being the characterization of indigence as a social ill and the result of a moral deficiency, requiring the use of legal injunctions to control the behaviour through criminalization. The second part focuses on how this characterization influences the perceived intent of policies created to address this issue of “visible poverty”. An analysis of the language used in various municipal by-laws in Canada provides insight into a prevailing stigma which suggests that the homeless are not welcome in any part of any city. Yet such language does not go unnoticed, some pieces of legislation have been challenged for infringing upon the protections guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. To conclude, the following questions must be considered: Who does the right of dignity belong to? Does progress in social justice include all but those marked by a certain social condition?
Healthcare transition (HCT) is inevitable for Canadian children and youth with enduring medical needs. At eighteen, youth are required to transition from pediatric to adult healthcare services. Increased medical knowledge and technological advancements have more children with chronic health conditions living into adulthood and facing HCT. Thus, HCT has become a much-needed and growing research priority. In current HCT literature, researchers have identified a siloed and fragmented approach; examining experiences from a single factor (perspective) approach as opposed to that of a system (interactions). HCT is complex, and can be influenced at various system levels. HCT should be viewed/examined as more than an isolated phenomenon involving only the youth. Little is known about the interaction between system levels. Arguably, what may seem most natural and fitting for a youth approaching transition is the system for which they are entrenched in daily at the interpersonal level, the family.

The research question that I will explore is, how does preparing for healthcare transition influence the family system from the perspectives of youth and their parent(s)/caregiver(s)?

In this oral presentation, I will share my Masters thesis proposal including the purpose, rationale, research design, and methods (population, recruitment, data collection, data analysis). The presentation will also include the significance of this study, prospective implications for social work education and practice, and broader health professions. In addition, I will explore what progress means to me, the social work discipline, and share critical reflections of what progress may look like for healthcare transition.
The GSRS committee asked Dana

"What was the inspiration for your thesis / dissertation topic?"

Research question for MA thesis: How does healthcare transition influence the family system, from the perspectives of youth and their parent(s)/caregiver(s)?

The inspiration for my Master's thesis is my special needs brother Kyle. Being a person with different abilities, or their family member is challenging. Often pediatric healthcare services are a "soft landing" and wrap their arms around both the child and family. These healthcare services can feel like "home", and healthcare providers "family". But this timeline Is fixed, and for those with enduring healthcare needs, eventually face the transition from pediatric-oriented healthcare services, to adult-oriented healthcare services. While this may seem a mere jump from a Children's hospital to an Adult hospital, it really represents leaving what a child and family has only known. Whilst at the same time a family experiencing shifting roles of funding, care responsibilities, and necessarily shifting the family system. This shift was not without challenges for my brother and my family. I value lived experience, and want to bring patient and family voices in to understanding healthcare transition and how this plays out at home in the family.
Objective: I conducted an integrative literature review to understand new graduate nurses' experiences with bullying during transition from school to professional practice and the effect on their retention in acute care. Approach: I searched the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, MEDLINE, and PsychINFO databases using the following keywords: new graduate nurses, new nursing graduates, new nurses, workplace violence, bullying, harassment, lateral violence, horizontal violence, violence, aggression, working conditions, and interprofessional relations. Inclusion criteria consisted of new graduate nurses with upwards of three years of practice experience in acute care, and authors must report on bullying from nursing peers. I included any study that met the inclusion criteria, irrespective of the publication date. Through the screening process, I selected 22 articles. Results: Between 26-90% of new graduate nurses reported they experienced bullying, mainly from senior nurses. The majority of incidents consisted of excessive criticism, humiliating or rude comments, isolation, lack of support, and intimidation tactics. Many new graduate nurses commonly ignored the problem, decided not to report the incident, suffered in silence, assimilated to the culture, or left the job or profession. Conclusion: Recommendations to minimize the effect of bullying on new graduate nurse retention include teaching conflict resolution as part of the nursing curriculum, creating mentorship programs during new graduate nurse transition, and practicing authentic leadership skills.
Advancing Professional Status of Social Workers on Interdisciplinary Health Care Teams: Perspectives of Hospital Social Workers in Ontario, Canada

Laura Henderson
Doctoral Student, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary

Courtney Petruik
Doctoral Student, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary

Hospital social workers are increasingly part of interdisciplinary health care teams; however their roles within these teams are often poorly articulated, underfunded, and their skills are underutilized (Golden, 2011). Research highlights the unique and critical skills that social workers bring to interdisciplinary teams and suggest that social workers are uniquely positioned to excel in positions of leadership within health care (Jackson, 1999; Jones et al., 2014). Social workers provide health care in a holistic way by recognizing an individual’s environment and considering the social determinants that may influence health. Social workers are trained to understand and articulate the ways in which social injustice disadvantages many who interact with the health care system. Research that advocates for and addresses barriers to social workers' advancement in positions of leadership promotes social justice by ensuring that those with the knowledge and passion for promoting it have their voices heard. The current research draws on qualitative interviews with 23 hospital social workers to better understand social workers' roles within interdisciplinary teams, where social workers have had success as leaders within these teams, and what barriers prevent them from advancing their professional status. Our findings show that poorly defined roles decrease social workers' feelings of efficacy and can lead to conflict and confusion within teams. Further, social workers often do not have access to professional development to advance their skills; however in the cases where interdisciplinary teams are clear on roles, provide professional development for their employees, and recognize members' contributions the experience is overall positive.
Introduction: Infertility affects up to 15% of couples worldwide, 16% of couples in Canada and 6-19% of women in the general population. Infertility is often considered a medical condition but the experience of infertility has a considerable social, emotional, and psychological impact on women.

Objective: To describe the characteristics of women who report a history of fertility problems during pregnancy, and assessment of depression, anxiety, and stress during pregnancy and the postpartum period for women with fertility problems compared to women with no fertility problems.

Population/Sample: The All Our Families (AOF) is a population based cohort study designed to assess maternal and infant outcomes during pregnancy and the postpartum period in Calgary, Alberta.

Methods/Measures: Women completed two questionnaires during pregnancy and at four and twelve months postpartum. Data was collected through standardized tools including the Edinburg Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS), the Spielberger State Anxiety Inventory (SSAI), and the Perceived Stress Index (PSI).

Results: The proportion of women who reported fertility problems was 7.2% of the entire AOF sample. There were no significant differences in perceived stress and anxiety levels at any time point between the women with fertility problems and those without. At four months postpartum there was a difference between depression scores with 5.2% of women with no fertility problems having EPDS scores greater than 13 compared to women with fertility problems (2.5%). A possible explanation for women who conceive using fertility treatment is that having the experience of infertility positively alters women’s perception of stress, disappointments, and worries.
The GSRS committee asked Katherine

"What research objective are you most passionate about for your thesis / dissertation?"

I am very interested in evaluating how an online delivery of Interpersonal Therapy may reduce symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression in infertile women, men, and the two of them as a couple. I am passionate about ensuring psychological support and symptom relief for this population, exploring whether there is a significant reduction in symptoms, whether the reduction in symptoms results in increased conception rates, and lastly bringing together the couple in greater marital harmony so that they are able to support one another during fertility treatments and whatever results may occur from the fertility treatments.

Objective 1: To evaluate the clinical effectiveness of e-IPT on reducing stress, anxiety, and depression in women, men, and couples undergoing fertility treatment.

Hypothesis 1: The percentage of women, men, and couples with stress, anxiety, and depression above cut-offs will be significantly lower in the intervention group versus the control group.

Research Question 1: What is the effect of an e-IPT intervention on the percentage of women, men, and couples with symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression post-randomization compared to usual care?
FRIDAY MARCH 10

11:10 – 12:20  Urban Planning
Chair: Dr. Matt Patterson

Dismantling the Wall: Progress as Interdisciplinary Praxis

Srimal Ranasinghe
MA Student, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary

Cities are a signature feature of human civilization, and are in many ways physical and social monuments to “progress”. More than simply a collection of designed spaces and objects, they are dynamic entities that are made up of human beings living in relationship with each other and their environments. This dialectical process is known as “city making”. However, a hermeneutic of suspicion driven by institutional sclerosis, democratization of knowledge, and polarization of groups due to social media complicates this process. The continued prevalence of social, economic, and environmental degradation also highlights our increased, and yet emergent, understanding of the complex interplay between our interlinked systems, indicating that city making involves engaging with wicked problems. Progress, therefore, has both moral and technological dimensions to it, and is a complex undertaking, involving the reduction of waste and suffering on a multi-systemic level. Using a project carried out by the makeCalgary research platform as a case study, this paper argues that progress within the ongoing, dynamic practice of city making must involve meaningful interdisciplinary collaboration.
Toward Sustainable Production: A Case Study Using Social Life Cycle Assessment Approach

Marwa Hannouf  
Doctoral Candidate, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary

Dr. Getachew Assefa  
Associate Professor, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary

The increased interest in sustainable products has called and urged businesses to consider the three dimensions of sustainability: environmental, economic and social in their products’ decision-making. However, the social dimension was always given a lower attention due to the difficulty of measuring and evaluating social impacts. The social life cycle assessment (SLCA) is an approach that aims to assess the social and socio-economic aspects of products and their potential impacts on stakeholders along their life cycle. Yet, there is a need for more case studies to improve the knowledge in this approach specifically in terms of its application in practice. In this study, we are applying the SLCA approach to evaluate the social performance of a specific product in Alberta, Canada. The life cycle of the production is divided between foreground and background processes. Social data is gathered at different levels: company, sector and country while using multiple sources of data. For foreground processes where the specific company has some level of control, the social performance of the company is compared to the sector or country performance. For background processes, where the company has no control, sector or country performance evaluation was used as proxy. This work helps informing sustainability-related decision-making in companies by pointing out and highlighting the social aspects and areas where their performance is low compared to their peers in the sector or country and need improvements. In addition, it enables companies to determine the social hotspots areas that need more focus from its suppliers.

The GSRS committee asked Marwa

"What research objective are you most passionate about for your thesis / dissertation?"

_I do believe that integrating sustainability in companies' processes is the current best opportunity for companies to meet environmental compliance while increasing their profitability and improving their social image. Thus, the objective that I am most passionate about in my research is to propose practical guidelines to companies on the use of life cycle sustainability assessment in their decision-making to develop sustainability strategies._
All Aboard: Public Transportation for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Susann Lagore
Doctoral Student, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary

Though the terminology is argued by a growing number of individuals and organizations, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is considered a developmental disorder. It is associated with key sensory, cognitive and behavioral features that guide its’ diagnosis. ASD is characterized by difficulty forming normal social relationships, an impaired ability to communicate and by repetitive behavior patterns. As a spectrum disorder it affects individuals to different degrees, in terms of cognitive function, affect and ability to function within the community.

Transportation, both public and private, has the potential to impact employment, exercise, self-advocacy and health care. For those with ASD, a lack of transportation accessibility has been noted as a significant obstacle to participating in both work and non-work related activities and creates social exclusion that affects both the individual and society.

Challenges with the independent use of public transit systems range from difficulty understanding schedules to fears of getting lost. Specialized transportation resources such as para-transit programs or adult service agency transportation are costly and can be non-inclusive since individuals with high-functioning ASD may not qualify, but nonetheless struggle with the spatial navigation, sensory integration and social skills required to use regular public transit.

With an increasingly complex urban environment and a growing number of technological 'solutions' to our transportation issues, accessing the experiences, viewpoints and input of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder is of profound importance both in a research and in policy development.

The GSRS committee asked Susann

"If you could hang out with one academic / activist / person in your field (dead or alive), who, why, and what would you ask them?"

*If I could hang out with one academic in my field, it would be Cecilia Feeley, PhD. She is one of only a handful of researchers looking directly at transportation needs and barriers of individuals on the autism spectrum; in addition, she is the parent of a child with ASD. I would ask her which single intervention she feels would have the most impact on increasing public transit ridership for this population.*
Smarter Progress, Smarter Cities: (Re)Evaluating Urban Adaptation in GCC Cities

Hannah Allawi
Doctoral Student, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary

Today, not only are cities becoming more environmentally sustainable, but they are also leaning into becoming more efficient, thus turning into Smart Cities. Within the Middle East, primarily the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), cities such as Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Doha and Riyadh are all contributing to the notion of Smart Cities by designing and creating new smaller ‘smart city’ projects within each city respectively. New urban developments such as Masdar City (Abu Dhabi), Msheireb Development (Doha), Lusail City (Doha), and King Abdullah Economic City (Jeddah) to name a few, are all designed and currently under construction as new cities that are more environmentally friendly with the use of smarter efficiency through technology and construction design. How do such cities of the GCC support the cultural identity of these countries? Who do these cities belong to? The locals? The expatriates? The Workers who built them? Or everyone? How do these cities really work and are they working? To build such cities is progress in its own right, however, can this form of ‘progress’ hinder these instant cities into becoming smarter cities? Perhaps progress is not in building newer developments but in adapting existing ones to meet the needs of a smarter city. These questions are but a few to be further discussed and perhaps answered through the Graduate Student Research Symposium 2017 at the University of Calgary.

The GSRS committee asked Hannah

"Which research objective are you most passionate about for your thesis / dissertation?"

As an Architect, Urban Designer and a current PhD student at the Faculty of Environmental Design, I am excited and passionate about having a possible opportunity to be able to contribute to the current growth of the city of Abu Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as a whole. I hope to be able to share the results of my research and final thesis dissertation to Emirati nationals who are overseeing the urban planning of cities in the UAE. My presentation within the Graduate Student Research Symposium at the University of Calgary is a further step within my research as well as a continuation to the discussion of the development of the 'Smart Cities' initiative within the region.
Is Calgary Age-Friendly? Insights from Service Providers and Baby Boomers

Allegra Samaha
MA Student, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary

Research Question/Purpose: Global, national, and local policy frameworks highlight the importance of creating age-friendly communities to respond to the increasing aging population. Baseline data is necessary in determining a city’s level of age-friendliness. The purpose of this study was to address the question: Is Calgary an Age-friendly city? Three sub-questions were explored: i) How do service providers and community residents rate the city? ii) What are the areas of strength and concern? and iii) How can Calgary become more age-friendly?

Methodology: Data collection methods included: i) 17 focus groups with age sub-cohorts and ethno-cultural baby boomers (n=143) and ii) an online survey of older adult service providers (n=32). Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and qualitative data was analyzed for themes.

Preliminary Findings: Seventy percent of service providers rated the city “moderately” age-friendly. Five baby boomer groups rated the city as age-friendly, seven groups provided mixed ratings, and five groups indicated that the city was not age-friendly. Strengths and concerns were identified related to a variety of age-friendly features.

Discussion: The findings of this study provide insights into ways in which the implementation of the Calgary Strategy can reflect the perspectives of service providers and baby boomers about age-friendly requirements.
The GSRS committee asked Allegra

"Which research objective are you most passionate about for your paper?"

The main objective of the study in question is to explore how well Calgary aligns with the eight global (i: transportation; ii: housing; iii: social participation; iv: respect & social inclusion; v: civic participation and employment; vi) communication and information; vii) community supports and health services; and viii: outdoor spaces and buildings) and six local priority areas (i: access to information & services; ii: community support & health; iii: housing; iv: participation & inclusion; v: prevention & response to elder abuse; and vi: transportation & mobility) to assess and enhance age-friendly response to the increasing aging population.

When considering the age-friendliness of a city, I believe it is crucial to investigate the opinions of anybody who is, or will be, directly influenced by policy development. The objective of the study that I am most passionate about is the consideration of both service providers, and future service recipients. Further, I strongly believe that the attention to baby boomers from diverse ethno-cultural backgrounds is crucial to the integrity of the research, as Calgary is so culturally diverse. Without the aforementioned participants, the validity of the research assessment and future recommendations would not adequately represent the city of Calgary.
Contemporary Questions of Metaphysical Guilt in Karl Jaspers' Die Schuldfrage

Rachel Braun
MA Student, Department of Classics and Religion, University of Calgary

This presentation examines German philosopher Karl Jaspers’ concept of metaphysical guilt (Metaphysische Schuld) from his famous lecture, "The Question of German Guilt" (Die Schuldfrage, 1946) in light of my field research in Berlin, Germany immediately after the United States presidential election (November 2016). According to Jaspers, metaphysical guilt comes the lack of solidarity among men as fellow human beings, each co-responsible for the wrongs and injustices of the world committed either in his presence or with his knowledge (Jaspers, 1946: 26). Jurisdiction rests with God alone, and consequentially results in a “transformation of human self-consciousness before God” (Jaspers, 1946:30). This concept moves the main categories at issue in Jaspers’ lecture from Guilt/Cause, Charges/Consequences, and Judgment/Purification to Transcendence/Immanence, Freedom/Historical Situation, and Individual/Collective. Based on my theoretical and field research data analyses to date, Jaspers’ metaphysical guilt provides a useful framework to explore questions of contemporary Christian German perceptions of responsibility for the Second World War in relation to Europe’s so-called ongoing Flüchtlingskriese (Refugee Crisis). My presentation concludes by discussing my findings in relation to my larger research question of: what is the role of religion in facing difficult pasts?

References:
Negotiating the Practices of 1.5-Generation Korean-Canadian Immigrants’ Name(s)

Jieun Jeong
BA Honours Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

Some newcomers to Canada adopt English names while others maintain their ethnic birth-names. Koreans are one of the ethnic groups that more commonly anglicise their first names once they immigrate. Some of the reasons for this phenomenon that previous studies have suggested are unfamiliar spelling and pronunciation, high desire to acculturate into the mainstream society and for better economic opportunities. Through qualitative interviews with 1.5-generation Korean-Canadians, this research takes a closer look at the phenomenon of name adoption and maintenance: What influences these immigrants (or their parents) to adopt English names? What is the process of English name adoption like? How do they manage their name(s), English and/or Korean, in interaction with others? In what situation or domain do they use one name over another? What are some of the benefits and challenges to having an ethnic name, or the two names? How do they identify with the name(s)? Preliminary findings include that dual names give some name-bearers different social identities with the fluidity to navigate through their different social and cultural settings, while other Korean-Canadians strive to maintain a more consistent social identity by using either their English or their Korean name in most settings.

The GSRS committee asked Jieun

“What was the inspiration for the thesis that you’re presenting on?”

As an immigrant who came to Canada at the age of 10, I have been interested in issues of immigration and identity in my undergraduate years. I explored what it means to be 1.5-generation Korean-Canadian in a Visual Sociology course, and the honours thesis I am presenting on is both an extension of my previous sociological research and is in relation to my personal experience. Although I had two names growing up, I never questioned it until one of the sociology professors asked me why I have two names while calling out attendance. Since then, I started to observe the practices of immigrants’ names, and my thesis is, in a way, a more in-depth answer to the question.
Moccasin Tracks

Wyatt Anton
MA Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

The colonization of Canada has produced deleterious effects for the Indigenous peoples that originally inhabited the land. Through sharing stories with a number of Indigenous craft producers the objective of this research is to capture the endurance of Indigenous culture beyond the disastrous effects of colonization and repression faced by the First Peoples of this continent. This study investigates craft production of cultural goods in Indigenous communities by building on the concept of a narrative embedded in the material craft culture of Indigenous communities. By narrative, this study refers to the culturally specific ways that stories are created and maintained in order to preserve elements of culture and society. Craft goods continue to be produced and used in these communities as a way of preserving and reproducing specific Indigenous stories that exist within each tribe. Data in this project come from semi-structured interviews with Indigenous craft makers. The interviews were conducted face-to-face with research participants often in their homes. The interview audio was recorded and transcribed later for analysis. Interviews and notes were analyzed through a hybrid of narrative and thematic analysis. The themes emerging from preliminary analysis of the data fit well within an decolonizing framework that centres and privileges Indigenous experience and perspective. Themes include spirituality, family, animals, social structure, and resistance. These themes contribute to the larger cultural narrative embedded in the Indigenous material craft culture being investigated in the research. Together, these themes offer a clearer vision of the Indigenous perspective and what it means to maintain a distinct cultural identity under the ongoing campaign of colonization.
"Everyone has Ethnic-Oriented Objectives in Afghanistan:" A Study of Ethnic Identity Construction

Hamid Sayed
Doctoral Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

The 'Pashtun' ethnic group has remained politically dominant in Afghanistan for the past three hundred years and their advantaged position has led other ethnic groups to often identify themselves as 'non-Pashtuns'. This research investigates how the notion ‘non-Pashtun’ is constructed by Afghan students of non-Pashtun ethnic groups. By applying a qualitative semi-structured interviewing technique, the research findings reveal that non-Pashtun respondents see the political dominance of Pashtuns as the root of ethnic tensions in Afghanistan, and they also view the current inter-ethnic political power-sharing as an element of unity. In contrast, Pashtun participants claimed to be the largest ethnic group and they pointed out to foreign countries’ interventions as the root of ethnic problems. This research makes an original contribution to the literature to empirically study the construction of ‘non-Pashtun’ among Afghan students for the first time. Moreover, it sheds light on a phenomenon that has been a major factor behind the civil wars and instabilities in Afghanistan.
Discrimination of Muslim Women in Western Countries: A Scoping Review

Saleema Salim
Doctoral Student, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary

Background: The image of Muslim women drawn by Western scholars and popular media contribute to and reinforce negative stereotypes (Seid-Mekiye, 2011). The abilities of and valuable contribution made by Muslim women in social, political and economic realms within Western countries is not recognized. This is a social issue and it is imperative for social worker to understand and respect their culture and contribution in Western societies.

Methodology: I screen N=51 articles from the electronic databases (social work abstracts and social service abstracts) using key words: “Muslim women”, “discrimination”, “social work”, and “Western countries” for peer-reviewed articles published between 2000 and 2016 in English.

Aims and Objectives of the Study: The aims of this paper is threefold: 1) to identify issues related to oppression and discrimination are faced by Muslim women residing in Western countries; 2) to outline the impacts and effects of discrimination and oppression on this population; c) to determine current practices in social work practice for Muslim women residing in Western countries; to develop recommendations for social work practice in Western countries related to Muslim women.

Results: I anticipate that the findings of this review will identify ways to minimize the discriminating and oppressing trends towards Muslim women in Western countries. I will adopt a strengths-based approach in my review by acknowledging the strengths and capacity of Muslim women in their ability to adapt to a foreign culture, while adhering to their own Muslim beliefs and culture. The study will also shed light on acculturation strategies used by Muslim women to inform settlement services. The social work knowledge and practice in Western countries lack the insight and depth in dealing with Muslim women’s problems and issues (Schley and Kaufman, 2006) thus this study will also try to fill this gap.

References:

FRIDAY MARCH 10

2:30 – 5:30  Keynote Cocktail Reception
Senate Room, Hotel Alma

2:50 – 3:20  Keynote Address: Erica Wiebe  BKin ’12, BA (Honours) ’16,
and 2016 Olympic Gold Medalist

“How the path to success in women’s wrestling, and the idea of progress,
often begins in failure”

If you have not heard who Erica Wiebe is, you must have missed all of the 2016 Olympics and
the news updates from the University of Calgary. Erica Wiebe is a University of Calgary alumni,
finishing a BKin in 2012 and a BA Honours in Sociology in 2016. While training throughout her
two degrees, Erica went on to wrestle at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janerio. In Rio,
Erica dominated her opponents as she won each round and went on to win the gold medal. Given
that her Honours thesis focused on the lived experiences of elite female wrestlers, combined with
her current efforts advancing women’s sports globally, we thought Erica would be a perfect fit
for our keynote address. In anticipation of her keynote address we asked Erica some questions:

What was it like conducting your Honours thesis on a topic that is so close to you personally
and professionally?

Engaging in qualitative research within a sports culture challenged me to address my own
experiences and assumptions at the onset of the thesis and then explore through personal
interviews the ways in which these women engaged with their own feelings of femininity and
body as they trained and competed at an elite level in the sport of freestyle wrestling.

What was a lesson you learned from your research that either complemented or
contradicted your personal experiences?

Among the group of women currently on the Canadian Senior National wrestling team whom I
interviewed, there was a ten-year range in ages. It was interesting to hear about their varied
experiences in which they entered the sport and began to participate in wrestling. From the type
of clothing they were permitted to wear to their acceptance into the male dominated training
environment, there were simultaneously differences and similarities in their experiences which
has led me to believe we have made a lot of progress but that there still remains much more to be
done.

Want to hear more from Erica about what she learned from her research and her opinion on the
greatest challenges to progress in women’s sports? Join us at the Keynote Cocktail Reception!
The Sociology Graduate Student Caucus (SGSC) would like to thank the following departments at the University of Calgary for sponsoring the GSRS event including, Sociology; Centre for Military, Security, and Strategic Studies; Political Science; Environmental Design; and Psychology. These sponsorships helped us create and print the program, design the GSRS banners and notebooks, and keep the GSRS as a free, interdisciplinary event for graduate students.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to the department of Sociology faculty for donating their time and being session chairs for GSRS, Dr. Dean Curran, Dr. Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot, Dr. Amal Madibbo, Dr. Ted McCoy, Dr. Fiona Nelson, Dr. Stephen Dumas, and Dr. Matt Patterson.

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Thank you to all of the presenters for making the 13th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium a success!

from everyone at SGSC,

thank you!