The Future of Diversity and Health Research in Canada: Current Debates & New Frontiers

Location: St. John’s College
2111 Lower Mall
UBC-Point Grey Campus

The fifth annual NEXUS Spring Institute is a two-day conference for sharing research and ideas.

Registration deadline: April 4, 2008

For a full description of the Spring Institute program, see below. Abstracts for all presentations are available for download from the NEXUS webpage (www.nexus.ubc.ca).

April 24th (Thursday)

9:30 – 10:00 AM  Registration for Panel 1

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  Panel 1: Community Based Research – Urban, Rural & Aboriginal Perspectives
Sponsored by the BC Rural and Remote Health Research Network

Presenters:

- Helen Brown, Assistant Professor, UBC School of Nursing – The colonial context of sweet blood: The intersection of ethical research, Indigenous knowledge, and 'participatory’ methodologies in Alert Bay.
- Mike Evans, Canada Research Chair in World's Indigenous Peoples, Associate Professor, UBC-Okanagan - Who's this we? A few cautious words about community based research with marginalized ‘rurban’ people
- Peter Hutchinson, Postdoctoral Fellow, NEXUS – Informing Policy Creation in Rural First Nation Communities
- Heather Macdonald, PhD Candidate, UBC School of Nursing - Enacting decolonizing methodologies with an urban on-reserve community: breaking down the boundaries between 'us' and 'them'

12:00 – 1:00 PM  Lunch & Networking
1:00 – 1:30 PM  Registration for Panel 2

1:30 – 3:30 PM  **Panel 2:** Examining diversity, ethnicity and place: methodological and theoretical challenges in the analysis of difference

Presenters:
- Geertje Boschma, Associate Professor, UBC School of Nursing - *Trying to make sense of numbers: Deinstitutionalization in historical perspective*
- Chris Richardson, Assistant Professor, UBC Department of Health Care and Epidemiology and Rick Sawatzky, Assistant Professor, Trinity Western University - *Using Latent Variable Mixture Modeling to Explore Sample Diversity*
- Victoria Smye, Assistant Professor, UBC School of Nursing - *Analytic challenges in the study of ethnicity: The need for different lenses*
- Sabrina Wong, Assistant Professor, UBC School of Nursing - *Challenges of measurement in studying diversity and health relationships*

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**April 25th (Friday)**

8:30 – 9:00 AM  Registration

9:00 – 9:15 AM  Welcome

9:15 – 10:15 AM  **Researching ethnicity and health: moving forward into the 21st century**

Keynote Address by Gina Higginbottom, Canada Research Chair in Ethnicity and Health, Associate Professor, University of Alberta,

10:15 – 10:45 AM  Coffee Break & Networking

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM  **Diversity Issues in Health Research**
- *Relations of Power and Systems of Oppression as Factors that Influence the Health Management Strategies of Women who are Street-Involved and Use Crack Cocaine*
  Presented by Vicky Bungay, NEXUS Trainee
- *Ethnic and Gender Differences in Risk Perception of Heart Disease*
  Presented by Gilat L Grunau, NEXUS Trainee
- “Aparnay Lowkh” (Our People): Reflections of being adopted as a ‘daughter’ in the process of qualitative fieldwork
  Presented by Bindy Kang

12:15 – 1:15 PM  Lunch & Networking
1:15 – 2:45 PM  
**Diversity Issues in Health Services & Systems**  
- Unmet health care needs of Punjabi and Chinese-speaking immigrants in British Columbia.  
  Presented by Emily Gard Marshall, NEXUS Trainee Affiliate  
- Theoretical and Methodological Issues in Conducting Research Related to Diversity among Nurses  
  Presented by Angela Wolff, NEXUS Trainee  
- Uncivil Society: Social and Economic Barriers to Health Equality in Canada  
  Presented by Lloy Wylie, PhD Candidate - Interdisciplinary Studies (Political Science, HCEP and Nursing), UBC

2:45 – 3:15 PM  
Coffee Break & Networking

3:15 – 4:15 PM  
**Moving Beyond the Celebration of Diversity: Taking Difference into Account in Health Education and Research**  
Keynote Address by Blye Frank, Professor and Head, Division of Medical Education, and Head, Department of Bioethics, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University

4:15 – 4:30 PM  
Closing Remarks
Presenting Author: Bungay, Vicky

Co-Author(s): Johnson, Joy; Varcoe, Colleen & Boyd, Susan

Title: Relations of Power and Systems of Oppression as Factors that Influence the Health Management Strategies of Women who are Street-Involved and Use Crack Cocaine.

Abstract:
Women who use crack cocaine are less likely to access health services than those who use other illegal drugs; yet they are capable and interested in protecting their health. This project was aimed at developing a better understanding of the strategies women use to protect their health and the impact of these strategies for health outcomes.

An ethnographic study was undertaken in an urban centre with 63 street-involved women who use crack. Data collection included in-depth interviews and participant observation during small group sessions. Field notes and interviews focused on women’s experiences of health inequities, health management strategies, and influential factors. The data was analysed using a thematic approach and because gender, race, social class, and place emerged as salient analytical perspectives, elements of intersectionality and social geography were used to interpret results.

Analysis revealed four themes that reflect the complexity of women’s health management strategies: (a) managing problematic use; (b) managing limited financial resources; (c) negotiating the health care system; (d) managing alone; which were influenced by poverty, discriminatory health service delivery, violence, and substance use. Activities included within these strategies were aimed at securing essential health resources, addressing gaps in health service delivery, and lessening crack-use related harms.

Structural changes within health care, criminal justice and welfare systems are required to reduce women’s experiences of health inequities, ensure timely access to care and to optimize women’s health management strategies.
**Presenting Author:** Marshall Gard, Emily

**Co-Author(s):** Wong, Sabrina T.; Chen, Weihong; Haggerty, Jeannie L.; Levesque, Jean-Frederic; MacEntee, Michael; Lynam, M. Judith; & Black, Charlyn

**Title:** Unmet health care needs of Punjabi and Chinese-speaking immigrants in British Columbia.

**Abstract:**
‘Unmet health care needs,’ the difference between health care services deemed necessary to deal with a particular health problem and the actual services received, is commonly measured by the question, “During the past 12 months, was there ever a time when you felt that you needed health care, but you didn’t receive it?.” In 2003, unmet needs were reported by 10% of immigrants. However, little is known about Chinese- or Punjabi-speaking immigrants' perceptions and reporting of unmet needs.

**Research questions:** 1) What are the perceptions of unmet health care needs of Punjabi and Chinese-speaking immigrants in British Columbia? 2) How do their health care experiences relate to the reporting of unmet needs on self-report surveys?

**Methods:** Twelve focus groups (6 Punjabi, 6 Chinese; n=78) were conducted in Chinese or Punjabi and socio-demographic data were collected. Content analysis of focus group data examined the theme of unmet needs. Coded focus group data were linked to the socio-demographic question, where participants were asked about unmet needs.

**Findings:** Participants rarely reported having unmet needs on the questionnaire (6.5%) or in focus groups; Yet, many participants shared experiences of unmet needs. Themes included: 1) different expectations based on home-country experiences and understanding of health care service delivery; 2) different expectations based on cultural values and norms; 3) language barriers; and 4) systemic deficits that inhibit access.

**Discussion:** Unmet needs for care is a concept that should go beyond asking if care was not received (which remains a relevant question) but should also include questions related to different aspects of need for care.