2023-2024



Annual Report



Prepared by

Kara Fletcher & Hannah Nguyen



Table Of Contents

Director's Message

Meet Our Team

2023-24 Review

SWRC Community Grants

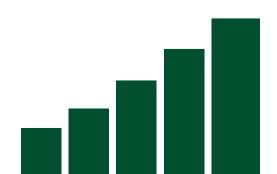
Newly Funded Projects

Publications

Lunch & Learn Events

Other Events







Director's Message

I am pleased to present our report for the period of July 1st, 2023, to June 30th, 2024. I would like to extend my gratitude to Dr. Gabriela Novotna for covering the role of Director while I was on sabbatical until January 1st, 2024. Hannah Nguyen, our Research Administrator, has continued to skillfully support all our SWRC-related activities.

We are excited to share with you the incredible research and work that have occurred during this time. Our researchers actively engaged in research, publishing, and community outreach and partnered with the media to raise awareness about important issues. Our Centre has worked hard to share our Research Associate's fantastic work through lunch and learns and community engagement.

Our Research Associates have accomplished a great deal during this period; they secured funding for various research projects, including multiple Tri-Council, provincial, and internal grants and research contracts. They received funding for research on topics like working with newcomers, engaging Indigenous communities in cognitive remediation therapy, harm reduction, support for people aging with HIV, program evaluation, child trauma, veterinary social work practice and working with rural and remote communities. This was also our first year offering a Community Research Grant opportunity for our members, and three Research Associates received these grants. We're excited to see what the next year has in store for our Centre.

Kara Fletcher, PhD Director





Meet Our Team

Director

Dr. Kara Fletcher

Research Administrator

Hannah Nguyen

Research Associates

Dr. Amanda Gebhard

Dr. Andrew Eaton

Dr. Bonnie Jeffery

Dr. Cathy Rocke

Dr. Darlene Chalmers

Erin Beckwell

Dr. Fritz Pino

Dr. Gabriela Novotna

Dr. Jacqueline Fields

Dr. Lise Milne

Dr. Michele Sorensen

Dr. Miguel Sanchez*

Dr. Nuelle Novik

Dr. Takhmina Shokirova*



^{*} No longer with SWRC, but was active during the reporting period



2023-24 Review



SWRC Community Grants

Newly Funded Projects

Publications

Lunch & Learn Events

Other Events

- Launched in Winter 2024
- 3 Funded Projects
- 11 Projects with SWRC PIs
- \$644,954 New Research Dollars
- 6 Projects with SWRC Co-Is
- 19 Peer-reviewed Articles
- 6 Books/Book Chapters
- 29 Conference Posters/Presentations*
- 20 Media Engagements
 - 8 Events
- Featured on FB & X

• CIHR Café Scientifique

SWRC Community Grants

Launched in the Winter of 2024, **SWRC** Community initiative aimed to encourage internal researchers to explore their ideas with community research collaborators. Applications peer-reviewed by external reviewers. Each successful project received \$10,000.

In its first round, SWRC received a total of three applications. three projects received positive from an feedback independent will These projects reviewer. provide important insights and work with in collaboration with underserved populations and community organizations.



Dr. Amanda Gebhard, Dr. Fritz Pino, & Dr. Willow Allen Community Organization: Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies

Project Title: Strengths-based Stories for Newcomer Students: A Case Study

Dr. Andrew Eaton & Dr. JoLee Sasakamoose

Community Organization: AIDS
Programs South Saskatchewan
Project Title: Indigenizing
Cognitive Remediation Group
Therapy: A Two-Eyed Seeing
Approach

Dr. Fritz Pino

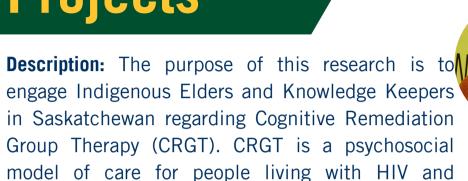
Community Organization: Bahay

Kubo: Queer Filipino Drag

Collective

Project Title: Visualizing the "Bahay Kubo" (Nipa Hut): Saskatoon's Queer Filipino Drag Collective





cognitive health concerns that has been developed, tested, and adapted over a decade of communityparticipatory research. The Investigator (PI) and research team seek to partner with Saskatchewan-based Indigenous organizations to further adapt, test, and implement CRGT in community health settings. Aging with HIV has become a priority area of focus as the epidemic enters its fifth decade, due to new HIV diagnoses among older adults and increased life expectancy for people living with HIV. Cognitive impairment is a significant comorbidity for people aging with HIV, yet biomedical interventions to improve cognition largely unsuccessful. have been Psychosocial support is needed to reduce the impacts (e.g., stress, anxiety, and poor coping) associated with irreversible health conditions, vet we lack cognition-focused psychosocial therapies for people aging with HIV. Incorporating the Two-Eyed Seeing approach, this proposal aims to weave Indigenous and knowledge Western together systems to enhance the delivery of culturally sensitive CRGT for Indigenous Peoples living with HIV in Saskatchewan.



Engaging Indigenous communities in cognitive remediation group therapy

Funder: Saskatchewan

Health Research

Foundation (SHRF)

Program: Align Grant

Other SWRC contributors: Dr.

Nuelle Novik

Duration: 2024-2025

Amount: \$10,000



ONTARIO HIV TREATMENT NETWORK

Description: This project aims to pioneer tailored living with HIV. for seniors care models acknowledging and integrating diverse cultural aspects into their care. By addressing multifaceted challenges like health and social care access and stigma, it seeks to bridge gaps by tailoring culturally-sensitive Geriatric-HIV care models. By integrating geriatric and HIV care, the research strives for seamless patient management, to provide holistic support that accounts for medical and social needs and cultural preferences in healthcare delivery. Despite initiatives like Toronto's Geriatrics-HIV Partnership Clinic Pilot, challenges remain in understanding complex care needs, especially for underrepresented groups. To bridge these gaps, a collaborative co-design approach engages seniors, caregivers, and healthcare providers.

Aligned with patient-centered care trends, this project supports culturally appropriate care, addressing regional healthcare disparities. It aligns with provincial efforts to optimize care for complex health needs, potentially influencing healthcare policies and funding priorities. The research findings aim to shape geriatric-HIV care guidelines, policies, and future care practices.

Dr. Andrew Eaton (Co-PI)

Implementing a novel geriatric-HIV clinic in Toronto, Ontario

Funder: The Ontario HIV

Treatment Network

Program: Breaking New

Ground

Duration: 2024-2026

Amount: \$150,000



Description: The purpose of this research is to community needle map prevalence and respond with HIV and syphilis prevention interventions. This project will evaluate health clinical (linkage outcomes to and care knowledge of pre-and post-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP and PEP)) these interventions, alongside the feasibility acceptability of this rapid assessment and response strategy. A technology-driven, realtime, web-based community needle reporting application gathers data on community needle public spaces prevalence in in Regina, Saskatchewan. These map visualizations will be used to deploy and study the impact of pop-up HIV and syphilis point-of-care testing, HIV self-test distribution, and PrEP and PEP education in hotspot areas. This grant will assist with establishing Dr. Eaton's program of research to implement evidence-based and innovative approaches to HIV and STBBI prevention with the potential to significantly influence the well-being of people who use drugs.



Mapping needles, preventing disease: Establishing feasibility of pop-up HIV and syphilis prevention among people who use drugs in Regina, Saskatchewan

Funder: Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF)

Program: Establishment Grant **Other SWRC contributors:** Dr.

Gabriela Novotna

Duration: 2024-2027

Amount: \$150,000







King City, ON from April 2 - 4, 2024, is dedicated to supporting early-career researchers and latepost-doctoral associates stage pursuing academic careers in infection and immunity. This event, in collaboration with the HIV/AIDS and STBBI Research Initiative, offers professional development through sessions on writing, scientific grant communication, and career planning aligned with CIHR-III's mandate. The CIHR-III New Investigator Forum Travel Award provides essential travel support, ensuring participants engage in networking can and knowledge-sharing critical advancing excellence in research.



Dr. Andrew Eaton (PI)

Travel Award to attend CIHR's Institute of Infection and **Immunity New Investigator** Workshop in Spring 2024 in King City, ON

Funder: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

Program: The New **Investigator Forum**

Duration: 2024

Amount: \$3,000



Description: Public attitudes towards the value and scope of police services fluctuate based on contextual factors. Police services in Canada and the United States have been facing increasing scrutiny and criticism for their handling of crisis responses concerning mental health. Crisis mental health responses are emergency calls regarding fear of harm that a person poses to themselves or others due to episodic changes in behaviour commonly attributed mental illness. Public pressure has resulted in efforts reform those to responses. These efforts require close partnership between with lived people experience of mental illness and crisis intervention, mental health professionals. community organizations, police, and policymakers. We are commencing two scoping reviews - one of co-response and one of civilian response - to synthesize alternative crisis mental health responses and build capacity to improve the response system in Canada.

Dr. Andrew Eaton (PI)

Scoping reviews of civilian and co-response crisis mental health programs.

Funder: University of Regina

Program: SSHRC Explore

Grant

Other SWRC contributors: Dr.

Kara Fletcher

Duration: 2023-2025

Amount: \$6,000





Description: An estimated 20% or more of the population has a family member with a substance use issue. While family members benefit from support, many affected family members and friends have trouble accessing treatment. In accessible family Saskatchewan. addiction supports can be particularly elusive for individuals living in rural and remote communities. Virtual support groups overcome certain service delivery barriers particular to rural and remote locations, such as the lack of personnel, the lack of transportation and other restrictions. The purpose of this project is to develop a province-wide virtual support group for individuals who are affected by their loved one's substance use, to provide an easily accessible intervention that is not currently offered. This project will evaluate the potential benefit of this virtual support group and survey the ongoing needs of this underserved population. Pilot data will be used to develop this project into a larger study with the goal of providing a sustainable, ongoing virtual support group for affected family and friends of substance misuse.



Saskatchewan-wide virtual support group for loved ones affected by substance use and misuse

Funder: Centre for Research on Children and Families (CRCF)

Program: The RBC Fellowship

Duration: 2023-2024

Amount: \$3,000



Description: Conspiracy theories refer to beliefs relating to secret plots orchestrated by groups who are considered to hold power and bad intentions (Mills, 2021). The current sociopolitical environment has created a context for conspirational narratives about COVID-19. vaccines. election fraud and other counterfactual information (Richards, 2022). A belief in conspiracy theories has increased in Canada since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The objective of this research is to better understand how disinformation and political polarization has impacted couple relationships since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Our exploratory study will meet this objective in two ways:

- 1) Through a scoping review of existing empirical and grey literature on the impact of conspiracy theories and disinformation on interpersonal relationships
- 2) Through interviews with 10-15 individuals who believe their romantic relationship has been impacted by conspiracy theories and disinformation since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr. Kara Fletcher (PI)

Love in the age of rage: The impact of misinformation, conspiracy theories and political polarization on intimate relationships, a pilot study

Funder: University of Regina

Program: SSHRC Explore

Grant

Other SWRC contributors: Dr.

Andrew Eaton

Duration: 2023-2024

Amount: \$5,954



Description: The University of Regina Child (CTRC), Trauma Research Centre established in 2020, addresses serious challenges facing Saskatchewan's children, families, and service providers, including high rates of child abuse, neglect, intimate partner violence, and poverty. Aligned with SHRF's goals, CTRC aims to enhance its impact by integrating trauma-informed practices with the needs of local service such providers as social workers. psychologists, and educators. This project be guided by a diverse advisory will committee and practice communities across five sectors (social, health, education, justice, and newcomer services). Using the Reach. Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, and Maintenance model, we seek to build a community of interest in child well-being and develop traumainformed research to improve the lives of vulnerable children, youth, and families.



Dr. Lise Milne (Co-PI)

Bolstering the impact of the Child Trauma
Research Centre: Collaborative,
community-driven approaches to
translating child and youth well-being
research on trauma-integrated
practices for service providers in
Saskatchewan

Funder: Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF)

Program: Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation Solutions Impact Grant – Child and Youth

Health

Duration: 2024-2026

Amount: \$150,000



Description: The Presentation Series interactive presentation is an designed for grades five to nine students Saskatchewan. across Topics of the series include understanding mental wellness, tips for managing anxiety and stress, supportive and healthy relationships, support and various and tools available for youth in Saskatchewan. Dr. Milne and Dr. Reid have been by hired the Saskatchewan Roughrider Foundation to research and evaluate the effectiveness of the Win with Player Wellness Presentations in schools.



Dr. Lise Milne (Co-PI)

Win with Wellness Mental Health Program Evaluation

Funder: Saskatchewan

Roughrider Foundation

Program: Community

Program

Duration: 2023-2026

Amount: \$10,000



Description: Stemming from SSHRO Partnership Grant on Child and Youth trauma, a need was identified to develop dynamic spaces Canada for across community-led research to be accelerated, actioned, and assessed. Currently, deeper understanding of the impact of trauma on children and youth is restricted by the disconnection between academia. community knowledge, lived and experience. The Child and Youth Trauma Research Incubator (ThRIve) is a multinetwork of labs to pronged create conducive environments for collaborative, community-based research to be nurtured and amplified at the institutional level. Seven regional labs (including University of Regina), one lead lab at McGill University and one virtual lab are being established.

Dr. Lise Milne
(Co-I)

The Child and Youth Trauma
Research Incubator (ThRIve) University of Regina Regional
Lab

Funder: Canadian

Foundation for Innovation

Program: Innovation Fund

Duration: 2023-2028

Amount: \$524,106

(\$150,000 in investment

at the UoR)



Newly Funded Projects (SWRC Contributed)

Project Title: The Cognitive Kitchen: An Evidence-Based Nutrition and Socialization Program for Rural Caregiver

Support

Grant: Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (

SWRC Researcher: Dr. Bonnie Jeffery (Co-I)

PI: Dr. Allison Cammer (University of Saskatchewan)

Duration: 2023-2025

Amount: \$19,030

Project Title: Cross-Sectoral Collaboration to Improve

Outcomes for Children/Youth in Vulnerable Contexts

Grant: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) -

Catalyst Grant: Policy Research for Health System

Transformation

SWRC Researcher: Dr. Bonnie Jeffery (Co-I)

PI: Dr. Akram Mahani (JSGS, UoR)

Duration: 2023-2024

Amount: \$150,000



Newly Funded Projects (SWRC Contributed)

Project Title: The Cognitive Kitchen: A Culinary Nutrition Intervention to Support Community-dwelling Caregivers of Persons with Dementia.

Grant: Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation

(SHRF) - Innovation Grant

SWRC Researcher: Dr. Bonnie Jeffery (Co-I)

PI: Dr. Allison Cammer (University of Saskatchewan)

Duration: 2023-2025

Amount: \$49,509

Project Title: Necessities and Challenges: Initiating

Veterinary Social Work Practice in Canadian Veterinary

Healthcare

Grant: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

(SSHRC) - Insight Development Grant

SWRC Researcher: Dr. Darlene Chalmers (Co-Applicant)

PI: Dr. Haorui Wu (Dalhousie University)

Duration: 2023-2025

Amount: \$74,999



Newly Funded Projects (SWRC Contributed)

Project Title: Public Education Workshop: Advancing

Human-Animal Bonds in Disaster Settings

Grant: Social Sciences and Humanities Research

Council (SSHRC) - Connection Grant

SWRC Researcher: Dr. Darlene Chalmers (Co-Applicant)

PI: Dr. Haorui Wu (Dalhousie University)

Duration: 2024

Amount: \$25,000

Project Title: Enhancing community wellness

programming for youth experiencing homelessness

Grant: Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF)

- Establishment Grant

SWRC Researcher: Dr. Gabriela Novotna (Co-I)

PI: Dr. Tristan Hopper (Faculty of Kinesiology and Health

Studies, UoR)

Duration: 2023-2026

Amount: \$140,735

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Craig, S. L., Brooks, A. S., **Eaton, A. D.**, Doll, K., Lozano-Verduzco, I., Pang, N., McInroy, L. B., & McDermott, D. T. (2023). Promoting community and competence: The development and evaluation of an international student training network of sexual and gender diverse (SGD) emerging scholars in SGD research. *Higher Education Research and Development, 43*(4), 827-843. https://doi.org/10.1080/07294360.2023.2269889

Dell, C., Kosteniuk, B., Doi, **C. Chalmers**, D., Butt, P. (2023). The role of the human-canine bond in recovery from substance use disorder: A scoping review and narrative synthesis protocol. *Human-animal Interactions, 2*(1). https://doi.org/10.1079/hai.2023.0029

Eaton, A. D., Hui, J., Muchenje, M., Kon, T., Murzin, K., Chan Carusone, S., **Novik, N.**, Quigley, A., Kokorelias, K., & Ibáñez-Carrasco, F. (2024). Adapting Cognitive Remediation Group Therapy Online: Focus Groups with People Aging with HIV. *Journal of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care, 23*, 23259582241242703. https://doi.org/10.1177/23259582241242703



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Eaton, A. D., Rourke, S. B., Craig, S. L., Fallon, B. A., Emlet, C. A., Katz, E., & Walmsley, S. L. (2023). Mindfulness and cognitive training interventions that address intersecting cognitive and aging needs of older adults. *Journal of Social Work, 24*(1), 126-145. https://doi.org/10.1177/14680173231207961

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Gebhard, G., Allen, S.W., &, **Pino, F.** (2023). Antiracism in appreciate inquiry. Generative tensions and collective reflexivity. *Action research, O* (0), 1-7. https://doi.org/10.1177/14767503231210418

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Publications - Books/Book Chapters

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Janisch, T., Triggs, V. & **Sorensen, M. D.** (2024). Overfull: The immateriality of walking. In (Eds.) N. Lee, M. Mosavarzadeh, J. Ursino & R. L. Irwin, *Material and digital a/r/tographic explorations: Walking matters*. Springer

Koops, S., Triggs, V. & **Sorensen, M. D.** (2024). Mapping five months of treaty walking: Practicing reconciliation. In (Eds.) N. Rallis, K. Morimoto, V. Triggs, **M. D. Sorensen** & R. L. Irwin, *Eco-pedagogical walking: Decolonizing place through kinship, nature & relationality*. Intellect.

Sorensen, M.D., & Triggs, V. (accepted). The pedagogical forces of land and art in graduate school a/r/tography. In K. Coleman, A. MacDonald, P, & Cook and Healy, (Eds). *Learning Through Art: Speculative Pasts and Pedagogical Imaginaries*. INSEA

Triggs, V. & **Sorensen, M. D.** (2024). Walking to where the grid breaks up: Accessing the aesthetic. In (Eds.) N. Rallis, K. Morimoto, V. Triggs, M. D. Sorensen & R. L. Irwin, *Eco-pedagogical walking: Decolonizing place through kinship, nature & relationality*. Intellect.



Publications - Books/Book Chapters

Souleymanov, R., & **Pino**, **F.** (2023). Understanding substance use and addiction from a queer perspective: Towards mobilizing a queer-oriented harm reduction approach. In R. Csiernik, W.S. Rowe, & **G. Novotna** (Eds.), *Responding to the oppression of addiction: Canadian social work perspectives* (4th ed., pp. 327-339). Canadian Scholars



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French version Thérapie de remédiation cognitive en groupe (TRCG) pour les personnes viellissant avec le VIH: Rapport Communautaire. https://eaton-lab.com/hiv-aging-and-cognition

Fletcher, K. (2023) Glass Gateway. Research project website. https://glassgateway.wixsite.com/podcast



Other Publications

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Baliko, K. (2023) featuring **Eaton, A. D**. Making a difference: Project ReportNeedles.ca aims to reduce overdoses. *Discourse Research Magazine*. https://www.discoursemagazine.ca/making-a-difference/2023/08/24/

Brezinski, C. (2023) featuring **Eaton, A. D**. Sask. Project aims to reduce drug overdose deaths. *CTV News Regina*. https://regina.ctvnews.ca/sask-project-aims-to-reduce-drug-overdose-deaths-1.6531641

Cairns, J. (2023) featuring **Eaton, A. D**. Project reportneedles.ca looks to reduce overdoses. *Sask Today.* https://www.sasktoday.ca/highlights/project-reportneedlesca-looks-to-reduce-overdoses-7447644

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Fletcher, K (2023; Interview). Blue Sky, Glass Gateway Podcast Launch. *CBC Saskatchewan*.



Fletcher, K (2023; Interview). Crystal Crisis: It's time for meth understanding. *Planet S Magazine.*

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Take a Walk in My Shoes: Skilled Immigrants' Experiences of Search for Professional Employment September 2023

International Students as
Labour: Experiencing the Global
Imaginary
October 2023

Race and Emotions in Research:

Methodological Reflection of a

Racialized Researcher

November 2023

Funeral Care Professionals and Medical Assistance in Dying in Saskatchewan: An Exploratory Study

December 2023

Presented by:



Marina Morrgenshtern & Uzma Danish



Dr. Takhmina Shokirova



Negar Valizadeh



Dr. Fritz Pino



Dr. Nuelle Novik



Dr. Janine Brown





Walking in a Good Way Alongside Refugee and Immigrant Children's Flourishing in Complex Time February 2024

What's collaboration got to do with it?

Better responding to the complexities of child protection responses to intimate partner violence in SK

March 2024

Attending to the Needs of Public Safety Personnel Families and a New Knowledge Mobilization Initiative

April 2024

Leaders Under Pressure:
Combating Burnout and Enhancing
Well-Being for Leaders in Social
Services Organizations
May 2024

Presented by:



Dr. Hang Tran



Dr.Lise Milne



Adrienne Ratushniak



Dr. Nathalie Reid



Steffi Oberthier



Dan Steenburgh



Other Events

Dr. Andrew Eaton and the Eaton Lab Presented

A CIHR CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

UNLOCKING VITALITY: THE MIND, BRAIN, AND BODY JOURNEY OF AGING WITH HIV



KEYNOTE ADDRESS DR. MARIE-JOSÉE BROUILLETTE MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Presentations by Kate Murzin (Realize), Dr. Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco (University of Toronto), Marvelous Muchenje (University of Toronto), Dr. Rachel Landy (Dalhousie University), Dr. Andrew Eaton (University of Regina), and more!

The Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR), University of Regina, Realize and PANACHE have joined forces in an exciting partnership to deliver a cutting-edge workshop on living with HIV and cognition, aging, exercise, and health promoting services, programs and interventions. This workshop is designed to cater to the needs of people living with HIV, communities, service providers, and academics.

THANKS TO SWRC RESEARCH PARTNERS





















CENTRE DE RECHERCHE SUR L'ENFANCE ET LA FAMILLE





