



Critical Inquiries in Mental Health Inequities: Exploring Methodologies for Social Justice

*Simon Fraser University
515 West Hastings, Vancouver, BC, Coast Salish Territories
May 10th & 11th, 2012*

Workshop Objectives:

1. To critically engage the values, assumptions and beliefs that underlie knowledge claims in current approaches to mental health and substance use;
2. To explore methodological frameworks and/or strategies suited to understanding and promoting social change;
3. To highlight and share the work of CGSM members and affiliates.

Day 1 - May 10th

8:00–8:30 Continental Breakfast (Room 1420-30)

8:30–9:00 **Welcome & Workshop Overview**

Marina Morrow (Director, CGSM, Simon Fraser University)

9:00–11:30 **Opening Plenary**

Social Justice Critiques of Research

This plenary will explore/critique research methodologies that support or violate human rights, social justice goals and liberatory practices.

Ruby Peterson (Community Researcher) *Meeting at the Intersection of Western Methodologies and Traditional Indigenous Knowledge in Community Action Research*

Mary Ellen Kelm (Simon Fraser University) *Historical Trauma/Contemporary Racialization: Service Providers and Aboriginal Youth in Rural British Columbia*

Lorraine Halinka Malcoe (Simon Fraser University) *Quantitative Research on 'Racial/Ethnic' Mental Health Inequalities: 21st Century Scientific Racism?*

Cindy Patton (Simon Fraser University) *Research Design and Social Justice: Can a Research Question Constitute a Violation of Human Rights?*

Discussant: Marina Morrow (Simon Fraser University)

11:30–12:30 **Poster Session** (Room 1400)

12:30-1:30 Lunch (Room 1420-30)

1:30-3:00

Concurrent Sessions

I. *Interrogating Structural Violence* (Room 1410)

This session will explore the application of structural violence and feminist anti-colonial frameworks to research addressing interrelationships among social inequities and partner violence.

Cindy Holmes (University of British Columbia) *Violence Denied, Bodies Erased? Examining Racialized Exclusions in 'Lesbian Domestic Violence' Discourses*

Shilo St. Cyr (Simon Fraser University) *Understanding Interrelationships among Social and Health Inequities, and Intimate Partner Violence in the Lives of Incarcerated Women: A Mixed-Methods Structural Violence Approach* (co-authors Lorraine Halinka Malcoe, Cathleen Willging)

Colleen Varcoe (University British Columbia) *Does our Focus on Interpersonal Violence Sustain Structural Violence, and How Can "Shift Happen"?*

Discussant: Cecilia Benoit (University of Victoria)

II. *Medicalization, Gender and the Distressed Body* (Room 1420-30)

This session will use social constructionist and critical-realist epistemologies to challenge narrow medical explanations of women's experiences of PMS, sexual pain, and psychiatry.

Jane Ussher and Janette Perz (University of Western Sydney) *The Material-Discursive-Intrapsychic Construction of PMS: A Feminist Critical Realist Analysis of Women's Madness*

Janine Farrell (Simon Fraser University) *The Medicalization of Women's Sexual Pain*

Lori Ross (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health) *A Participatory Approach to a Qualitative Retrospective Chart Review of Women's In-patient Psychiatric Charts*

Discussant: Rodney Hunt (Simon Fraser University)

3:00-3:30

Break

3:30-5:00

Concurrent Sessions

I. *"Official" Encounters: Constructions of Madness, Substance Users and Criminality* (Room 1420-30)

This session will critically explore constructions of madness, substance users and criminality vis a vis professional practice, research and lived experiences.

Robert Menzies (Simon Fraser University) *Mapping the Intersections of Psycho-Legal Power: A Tale of Murder, Madness, and Motherhood from British Columbia History*

Cathleen Willging (Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation) *Ideologies of Community Re-entry: Contrasting the Perspectives of Women Prisoners, Parole Officers, and Mental Healthcare Personnel*

Susan Boyd (University of Victoria), Dave Murray (NPA founder) and Dianne Tobin (NPA, Vice President of VANDU) *Challenging Drug Prohibition Research Models: The Experiences of the NAOMI Patients Association*

Discussant: Lorraine Halinka Malcoe (Simon Fraser University)

II. *Eschew Madness Repressed and Affirm Madness Expressed!* (Room 1410)

This session will explore sanism, Mad studies and radical activism as means for challenging and pushing oppressive normative structures.

James Overboe (Wilfred Laurier University) *Why Mad Studies Needs to Abandon the Identity Bandwagon!*

Adrienne Fitch (West Coast Mental Health Network) *Challenging Sanist Legislation in BC: A User/Survivor Activist Research Project*

Ron Carten (West Coast Mental Health Network) *Advocacy and Change in Psychiatric Patient Rights*

Muriel Groves (BC Association of Civil Liberties) *Rights Denied to Mental Health Patients*

Discussant: Susan Hardie (Simon Fraser University)

III. *Using Arts Based Research to Create Research Spaces that Encourage Meaningful Dialogue about Gender, Social Inequity, Recovery and Mental Illness* (Room 1400)

This session will discuss the research process and findings of a multi-site study that used creative and artistic processes to develop research spaces that engaged women living with mental illness in exploring their experiences of recovery.

Indrani Margolin (University of Northern British Columbia) *Arts Based Research and Representations of Gender and Social Inequity in Recovery from Mental Illness*

Dawn Hemingway (University of Northern British Columbia) *Arts, Activism and Recovery: Voices of Older Northern Women* (co-author Indrani Margolin)

Terry Krupa (Queen's University) *Conflicts of Identity among Young Women Experiencing a First Episode of Psychosis*

Sean Kidd (University of Toronto) *Pathways to Community for Racialized Women: Narratives of Power, Self-Worth and Navigating Identity*

Discussant: Michelle Patterson (Simon Fraser University)

5:30-7:00

Pre-Dinner Reception

Please join us for a reception featuring local social enterprise organizations Gallery Gachet and Potluck Society. Refreshments and appetizers provided.

Gallery Gachet, 88 East Cordova Street, Vancouver, BC.

From SFU, walk 3-4 blocks east (left) along W Hastings Street, turn north (left) on Carrall Street and east again (right) on East Cordova Street. Gallery Gachet is on the south (right) side of Cordova.



Day 2 - May 11th

8:30–9:00 Continental Breakfast - For CGSM research team members only (Rooms 1420-30)

9:00-12:00 **Theme Group Research Team Meetings**

CGSM research theme groups meet in-person.

Recovery and Housing (Room 1420-30)

Violence, Mental Health and Substance Use (Room 1400)

Mental Health Reform and Policy (CGSM Admin Office 3277)

Criminal Justice System, Mental Health and Substance Use (Room 1410)

Reproductive Mental Health (CGSM Research Space 3120)

12:00-1:15 Lunch - All welcome (Room 1420-30)

1:15-2:15 **Roundtables** (select one)

I. Developing Better Mental Health Services for Women (Room 1420-30)

Jennie Williams (Inequality Agenda) and Sara Scott (DMSS Research and Consultancy)

This roundtable is an opportunity to reflect on what it takes to improve service responses to women with mental health needs. We are part of a loose network of people in the UK who share this aim and come to the discussion prepared to talk about what has been happening there, including our collaborative work with the Department of Health.

II. Consciously Connecting Community: Collaborating Across Differences in Conducting Community Based Research (Room 1410)

Thanya Al-Saadoon (CGSM) and Ruby Peterson (CGSM)

This roundtable discussion will focus on how community-based researchers deeply consider and ethically apply best research practices across cultural and organizational differences. The consideration of a number of perspectives will be introduced into the conversation, including First Nations, feminist, youth, LGBTQ and others that are applicable to the table participants' areas of research/work/community.

III. Walking the Walk: Social Justice, Decolonization and the Practice of Being an Ally (Room 1400)

Sabina Chatterjee (CGSM)

As activists, researchers, service providers, and community organizers, many of us challenge ourselves as individuals to engage in social justice solidarity -- but how exactly do we navigate the crucial and complex work of self-reflexivity, reflective learning, and decolonization? This roundtable is intended for people with lived experience of oppression (based on race, class, gender/identity, sexual orientation and/or dis/ability, etc.) who want to deepen their exploration of the work they need to do to actively participate in decolonization, including the necessary development of a pedagogy and praxis of social justice solidarity and the work of truly being an ally.

IV. *Deskilling and Mental Health: Taking a New Perspective on the Vince Li Incident* (Room 2290)

Mei Lan Fang (CGSM)

Vince Li, a Chinese immigrant living in Canada, was involved in the beheading of Tim Mclean July 30, 2008 while riding a Greyhound Canada bus. He was found not criminally responsible because of his mental health condition, schizophrenia. The trials and tribulations that immigrant minorities encounter outline a pathway toward declining health. Research indicates that factors associated with discriminatory practices and the processes of acculturation prolong integration. Work policies surrounding recognition of foreign credentials predict mental health outcomes in new immigrant populations. This roundtable takes a new perspective on the Vince Li incident outlining how deskilling triggered a pathway that impacted his mental health. It will also discuss the dominant discourse of the media's portrayal of the incident in focusing on race and pathologization of schizophrenia.

V. *Using the Mental Health Strategy for Canada to Improve Equity* (Room 2260)

Howard Chodos (Mental Health Commission of Canada)

Released on May 8th, the Mental Health Strategy for Canada contains recommendations that address disparities in access to services as well as in exposure to risk factors and that relate to upholding the rights of people living with mental health problems and illnesses. This roundtable will begin the discussion of how the Strategy could contribute to furthering a broad public conversation on improving mental health outcomes for all people living in Canada.

2:15-2:30 Break (Room 1420-30)

2:30-3:00 **Report Back from Roundtables** (Room 1420-30)

3:00-5:00 **Closing Plenary** (Room 1420-30)

Queering Mental Health Research and Praxis

This plenary will challenge social norms, clinical practice and policy that limit and suppress individual expression of gender and sexuality, offering alternative responses.

Jake Pyne (Ryerson University) *The Governance of Gender Non-Conforming Children and the Danger of Inclusion*

Cathleen Willging (Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation) *Queering Mental Health Intervention Research: An Example from Rural New Mexico*

Trish Garner (Simon Fraser University) *Chest Surgeries of a Different Nature: Locating the "Disorder" in the Mind or the Body*

Discussant: Ann Travers (Simon Fraser University)

5:00-5:15 **Closing Remarks**

Best restaurants in Vancouver:

<http://www.straight.com/article-640261/vancouver/golden-plates-2012-industry-choice-winners>

Wifi Access for SFU Harbour Centre:

Computing ID: lw645

Password: 5e96k9ch