

# MacEwan University

## 2020 Report of Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity



MacEwan  
UNIVERSITY



## Message from the Associate Vice-President, Research

Welcome from the Office of Research Services. While 2020 was a challenging year for everyone, I take great pride in presenting our 2020 Annual Report on Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity (RSCA). While the COVID-19 pandemic impacted people's abilities to conduct research, it did not stop the need for research evidence to inform decision making for program and policy development. In fact, COVID-19 has re-affirmed the important role that RSCA plays in society, and part of MacEwan's response to the COVID-19 pandemic was to ensure that the resumption of RSCA was a priority. I am impressed and inspired by the way that MacEwan scholars made adaptations to continue their existing research programs during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as finding new opportunities to conduct RSCA for the betterment of society.

While our immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic was to ensure our health and social systems had the resilience to weather the initial pandemic storm, we are now changing our focus to ensure that our health, social, economic and educational systems can bounce back from the pandemic, to ensure a prosperous future for everyone. For example, when COVID-19 first struck, people moved to virtual education and other work practices, using tools like Microsoft Teams and Cisco WebEx, without questioning their efficacy or how they might alter and impact our work routines. We realized that there are elements of improvement in a digital work world that we want to maintain going forward. Our future will be a blended digital and face-to-face world, and research will play a key part in defining how our 'new normal' looks and works.

The MacEwan University Report on Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity highlights the significant research, scholarly and creative accomplishments of our faculty and the students and community partners with whom they have worked with. As you read through this report, I hope you come to appreciate the breadth of outstanding scholarly activity conducted at MacEwan. Dr. Grant MacEwan challenged all of us to "leave the vineyard better than you found it" and our research delivers on that challenge by enhancing our students and campus, keeping us engaged with our local communities in downtown and greater Edmonton, and making an impact nationally and internationally.

My very best regards,

Dr. Craig Kuziemsky, Associate Vice-President, Research



## Contents

Message from the Associate Vice-President, Research .....	2
School of Business.....	5
Dr. Theresa Chika-James: Millennial Managers and the Issue of Age Discrimination at Work.....	5
Dr. William Wei: Ivey and MacEwan Co-Branded Cases.....	6
Dr. Rohit Jindal: Strategic Research Grant (Up to \$20,000).....	6
Student Paper on e-Scooters in MacEwan Journal.....	7
Student Research on Fairness in Selection.....	7
Dr. Albena Pergelova: Women Entrepreneurship.....	7
Dr. Qian (Claire) Deng: Utilizing Weirdness in Business.....	8
Faculty of Arts and Science.....	9
Student-Focused Scholarship.....	9
Scholarship Integrated Teaching.....	10
Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Scholarship.....	10
Local and Community Based Scholarship.....	11
International Scholarship.....	11
Applied Scholarship.....	11
Transformative Scholarship.....	12
Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications.....	13
Dr. Emilie LeBel: Composing Sonic Imaginings and Feelings of Nostalgia.....	13
Josée Chartrand: Analyses of the Oukrainsky Collection at the Museum of Performance and Design (MP+D) in San Francisco.....	14
Dr. Michael B. MacDonald: Cultural Studies in the Era of Digital Cinema.....	14
Dr. Ross Shaw, Dr. Isabelle Sperano and Robert Andruchow: Creating a Videogame to Teach Biology.....	15
Elisabeth Belliveau: Working with Students to Present the First Fine Art Project at the 2020 Ending Sexual Violence: Student Research Forum and Award.....	16
Faculty of Health and Community Studies.....	18
Dr. Kristopher Wells: Canada Research Chair (Tier II) for the Public Understanding of Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Faculty.....	18
Dr. Cynthia Puddu: Community-Based Participatory Research.....	19
Dr. Hongmei Tong: Refugee Mental Health in Canada.....	19



Dr. Tricia Lirette: 2019 Distinguished Research Award Recipient .....	20
Colette Foisy-Doll: Clinical Simulation Centre.....	21
Faculty of Nursing.....	22
Dr. Jill Vihos: Planetary Health.....	22
Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto: Interprofessional Education and Simulation Learning.....	23
Library Services.....	24
Dr. Eva Revitt: Librarians’ Work as Women’s Work! .....	24
Lindsey Whitson: pimatisiwin/The Art of Living .....	25
Jody Nelson, Alison Foster and Dr. Mary Asirifi: Aligning Blended Information Literacy Instruction with Principles of Evidence-Based Practice for Meaningful Nursing Instruction.....	26
Office of Research Services.....	27
Dr. Kristopher Wells: Canada Research Chair .....	27
Community Engaged Scholarship .....	28
Student-Engaged Research.....	28
Research Excellence by Our Faculty .....	28
Distinguished Research Award .....	29
Research Excellence by Our Students.....	29
Research Ethics Board.....	29
Animal Research Ethics Board.....	30
Contact Us .....	30

### **Treaty 6 Territory Land Acknowledgment**

*MacEwan university is located on Treaty Six Territory, the traditional gathering place for many Indigenous people. We honour and respect the history, languages, ceremonies and culture of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit who call this territory home. The First People’s connection to the land teaches us about our inherent responsibility to protect and respect Mother Earth. With this acknowledgement, we honour the ancestors and children who have been buried here, missing and murdered Indigenous women and men, and the process of ongoing collective healing for all human beings. We are reminded that we are all treaty people and of the responsibility we have to one another.*



## School of Business

### **Dr. Theresa Chika-James (Assistant Professor, School of Business)** **Millennial Managers and the Issue of Age Discrimination at Work**

While Dr. Theresa Chika-James conducted scholarly research on management, she also supervised and mentored Jennifer Mader towards successfully completing her Honours Thesis in Management titled: “An Exploratory Study of Millennial Managers from Employees’ Perceptions.”

Given the shift towards millennials assuming management roles in organizations, Jennifer wanted to find out if a millennial managers' age influenced employees' perceptions of their manager. As a senior level student who intends to take up managerial roles in the workplace, Jennifer was keen to uncover if age discrimination against millennials existed in the workplace. She posed the question: Are employees' perceptions of their millennial managers influenced by the millennial manager's age?

With supervisory support from Dr. Chika-James, Jennifer conducted semi-structured interviews with eighteen participants from two organizations in Alberta: a social service agency and a health care centre. Jennifer’s research results indicated that while few participants consciously discriminate millennial managers based on their age, most participants were subconsciously biased. In her viva presentation, Jennifer recounted participants’ statements of discrimination, such as “definitely with age comes wisdom,” and “I hope I don’t judge people by their age, but it does factor in.” Other participants were a little bit leier of young managers. A few participants stated they would be displeased if a young manager got promoted “without paying their dues” i.e. without serving a long term in the organization. It was quite revealing that in an era of diversity and inclusion, and the need for millennials to assume managerial roles in organizations, some employees have pre-conceived perceptions about the capability, knowledge and experience of millennial managers based on their age.

An aspect of Jennifer’s research was presented at the 2020 virtual annual conference of the Administrative Sciences Association of Canada (ASAC). “Jennifer’s research findings presented at ASAC were well received and recognized by academics as a contemporary issue that requires further exploration in other sectors and industries in Canada,” says Dr. Chika-James. “It was noted that in other sectors such as banking, finance and IT, employees’ perceptions might differ because of the millennial generational cohort that is predominant in these sectors.” Jennifer Mader’s Honours thesis study, and the public presentation of her research, indicates the importance of conducting and sharing meaningful research that will impact undergraduates as they prepare to enter the workplace. The Honours Thesis-Management program provides the opportunity for students, under the guidance of a faculty supervisor, to conduct independent research in management studies. This equips students with mastery knowledge in business research and communication skills, and the awareness of issues in contemporary work organizations. “It is indeed a program that senior students are taking to equip them for future academic and career pursuits,” says Dr. Chika-James. “I am pleased to offer such an impactful research program for undergraduates.”



**Dr. William Wei (Professor, Asia Pacific Management Program)  
Ivey and MacEwan Co-Branded Cases**

MacEwan School of Business faculty members published five [Ivey-MacEwan co-branded cases](#) in 2020, making the total co-branded collection 22 cases.

Our School is recognized as one of 27 Ivey strategic co-brand case publishers, and we are the only undergraduate business school in the world to have this partnership with Ivey. Working with the second-largest case publishers in the world not only shows MacEwan's continuing effort to build an excellent teaching-focused undergraduate business school, but it is an important aspect of scholarship. The partnership also means that MacEwan's co-branded Ivey cases can be used in any MacEwan School of Business program at no cost to students.

School of Business Dean, Dr. Wanda Costen, and five faculty members also published a series of podcasts on [The Case Study Method](#). In these podcasts, School of Business faculty shared their experiences on teaching, conducting research and publishing Ivey business case studies. We reflected on what role teaching with cases plays in business education, discussed strategies for supporting our students' learning with cases, and took a closer look at navigating writing, conducting research and publishing processes.

**Dr. Rohit Jindal (Associate Professor, School of Business)  
Strategic Research Grant (Up to \$20,000)**

Dr. Rohit Jindal received a Strategic Research Grant (\$19,984) from the MacEwan University Office of Research Services for his project: "Role of Environmental Payments in Promoting Sustainable Conservation." Dr. Jindal is the lead investigator for a team of researchers conducting interdisciplinary research on sustainability. These researchers are part of the "Behavioral Economics of the Environment (BEE)" lab that uses lab experiments, surveys and field experiments to explore critical concerns in promoting sustainability. The lab includes faculty from Decision Sciences and Marketing and Psychology, along with student research assistants both from within the School of Business and beyond.

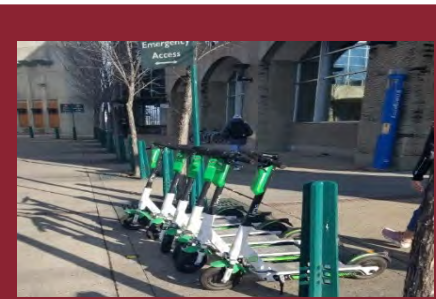


As part of the project, Dr. Jindal and his team will conduct field research in India to identify locally viable incentive structures that promote resource conservation. At the heart of the study is a comparison of (1) the effectiveness of cash-based and non-cash-based incentives, and (2) the role of participatory decision processes in fostering sustainable conservation. Insights gained from the research will feed into the design of community-focused environmental management projects. The duration of the project is from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2021.



**Brady Bailey (Bachelor of Commerce Student)  
Paper on e-Scooters in MacEwan Journal**

Brady Bailey, a Bachelor of Commerce student and a research assistant in Dr. Rohit Jindal's research group, published an article in MacEwan's student journal, *MUSE*, titled: "The Sharing Economy: Do e-Scooters Make the Cut?" The paper presents the outcomes of a project on e-scooters as an example to emphasize the potential impacts and characteristics of a business operating within the sharing economy. Brady conducted a survey in Edmonton on public opinion regarding e-scooter usage. Another source of information was an interview with a top executive of Lime Scooters, an e-scooter company operating in Edmonton. Brady and co-author Sarah Sereda found that while online platforms make resource sharing between peers easier to access, they are not always economically sustainable. A literature review on the life-cycle analysis of e-scooters revealed that environmental sustainability was not adopted in practice. Careful consideration of business operations was needed to mitigate potentially negative impacts.



*Lime Scooters in front of  
MacEwan University*



*Brady Bailey*

Thoughtful policies need to be considered and put into place to encourage public and private trust. Overall, the sharing economy could be quite useful in creating a sense of community and social sustainability, but it is not necessarily sustainable in practice. Paper citation: Bailey, B., & Sereda, S. (2020). The Sharing Economy: Do e-scooters make the cut?. *MacEwan University Student EJournal*, 4(1). <https://doi.org/10.31542/muse.v4i1.1883>

**Colin Dawyd (Bachelor of Commerce Student)  
Research on Fairness in Selection**

Colin Dawyd, a Bachelor of Commerce student and another researcher in Dr. Rohit Jindal's group, was selected to present the project "[Interdisciplinary Research on Perceptions of Fairness in Organizational Setting](#)" at MacEwan's annual Student Research Day 2020 (cancelled due to Covid-19). The project is part of ongoing research on how people perceive different selection mechanisms, and if perceptions result in significant differences in performance.



*Colin Dawyd*

**Dr. Albena Pergelova (Chair and Associate Professor, Department of International Business, Marketing, Strategy and Law)  
Women Entrepreneurship: The Role of Digital Technologies and International Market Intelligence**

Dr. Albena Pergelova's research interests are in two disciplines: marketing (with a special focus on digital technologies and consumer empowerment) and entrepreneurship (specifically, internationalization of SMEs and women entrepreneurship). Her research has been published in high-impact international journals, such as the *Journal of Advertising*, *Entrepreneurship &*



*Regional Development, Journal of Business Research, International Journal of Advertising, International Small Business Journal, Journal of Small Business Management* among others, and presented at many prestigious academic conferences. Many of Dr. Pergelova's research projects received numerous awards including: three "Best Paper in Track" awards from Academy of Marketing; "Best Paper Award" from Diana International Research Conference; G. Dale Meyer "Best Paper Award" for the Most Relevant Research in Social Entrepreneurship; and "Commendable Research Paper Award" from the Eastern Academy of Management Annual Meeting.

Dr. Pergelova's most recent research projects aim to build bridges between her marketing and entrepreneurship research expertise. In 2019, she published "Democratizing Entrepreneurship? Digital Technologies and the Internationalization of Female-Led SMEs" in the *Journal of Small Business Management*. The article examines the role of digital technologies and international market intelligence in the context of women entrepreneurship. The article was an immediate hit and was awarded as one of the "Top Downloaded Paper 2018-2019" by the *Journal of Small Business Management*. As digital solutions are becoming increasingly important for businesses due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this research can offer useful implications for both policy makers and entrepreneurs.

**Dr. Qian (Claire) Deng (Assistant Professor, School of Business)**  
**Utilizing Weirdness in Business: Why do consumers perceive certain products as weird? Does weirdness necessarily lead to negative consumer responses?**

Supported by a SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council) Insight Development Grant, Dr. Qian (Claire) Deng is exploring how weirdness can be used to help companies gain positive responses from consumers.

The word *weird* is widely used in our daily lives. For example, one may find and purchase many weird products on Amazon, such as a life-sized Bigfoot statue, live cockroaches, Nicolas Cage pillowcases and a pocket-sized suture pad. However, little is known about the concept of weirdness, or about what makes things weird, probably because of the negative connotations of weirdness.

"My research challenges this view, not only by identifying the key antecedent to weirdness and the underlying mechanism in the context of product designs, but also by showing the marketing potential of weirdness. Via a series of experiments, my research demonstrates that a key antecedent to weirdness is extreme incongruity between a product's design and its category schema, because of a failed sense-making process. Furthermore, providing information to facilitate the sense-making process can significantly decrease the perception of weirdness. Moreover, although consumers like weird products less, those same consumers are more willing to share information about these products, no matter in person or online, than about regular ones."

Dr. Deng's research is specifically relevant for today's business environment. With the rapid development and usage of the Internet in modern society, weird products not only catch consumers' eyes, but also generate word-of-mouth behaviour and become viral online, representing a virtually free and effective marketing strategy to build product and brand awareness.





## Faculty of Arts and Science

Across various fields in natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities, faculty members within Arts and Science are engaged in diverse, impactful scholarly activities, which include numerous research projects, dissemination activities and innovative, creative scholarship. Only a sample of people and projects are featured here, excluding the works of many whose research positively impacts our students and who contribute to disciplinary knowledge within academia and beyond. To highlight what research looks like in the Faculty of Arts and Science, this scholarship showcase presents a sample of recent stellar contributions. It represents the diverse and significant benefits of promoting and supporting a thriving research culture in the Faculty of Arts and Science at MacEwan University.

### **Student-Focused Scholarship**

*Our scholarship is student focused. We support students outside of the classroom through supervision and mentorship in independent studies, Honour's projects and research assistantships.*

- Assistant Professor Dr. Eric Legge (Department of Psychology) is currently studying companion animal behaviour, training, therapy and welfare. Notable is the supervision of student Honours research that examines psychological ramifications of animal rescue work. Dr. Legge received a MacEwan Project Grant from the Office of Research Services for his work on the mental health and wellbeing of animal rescue workers in Canada. Dr. Alex Penney, Discipline Advisor in Psychology (Arts) and Lead of the Worry and Health Anxiety Lab, has embarked on a project involving a student researcher about the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns and health anxiety. Dr. Legge and Dr. Penney are also working together to examine the efficacy of service animals in psychological support interventions with first responders.
- Computer Science colleagues, Dr. Candy Pang (Assistant Professor) and Dr. Calin Anton (Associate Professor), received a Teaching Innovation Fund grant to evaluate cloud-based virtual lab technologies, and approval from the Research Ethics Board to carry out research with students in CMPT 101 and CMPT 103, which are entry-level computer science courses. Before the pandemic, these students could use the pre-configured computers in the computer labs. However, the pandemic prevented students from using the computer labs. The scholars were concerned about a gap in knowledge and experience in configuring programming applications required in the courses, and asked themselves: How can virtual lab technologies help students? With the assistance of Information and Technology Services, Drs. Pang and Anton created two virtual lab environments, Microsoft Azure Lab and MacEwan MyApps. The virtual lab technologies allow students to access pre-configured programming applications through web browsers with or without their own devices. Preliminary findings show promising results and benefits for students.
- Since arriving at MacEwan in 2019, Earth Scientist and Geoarchaeologist Dr. Robin Woywitka (Department of Physical Sciences) safely mentored two students in summer fieldwork during the pandemic. This research focused on identifying areas on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains with potential for archaeological and paleontological sites that date to the end of the last ice age. Dr. Woywitka is supervising another student project funded by an Undergraduate Student Research Initiative (USRI) grant, which focuses on permafrost degradation in the Canadian north. The research used optical remote sensing and digital terrain data to develop an



inventory of rotational thaw slumps (i.e. landslides triggered by melting permafrost) in the Old Crow River basin, Yukon.

### **Scholarship Integrated Teaching**

*Our scholarship is integrated with teaching. Research and teaching are interrelated and mutually reinforcing.*

- Dr. Sarah Copland (Associate Professor, Department of English) publishes regularly in her field of narrative theory and rhetorical aspects of prefaces. Dr. Copland recently embarked on a multi-year Scholarship of Teaching and Learning project, which received a MacEwan SOTL fellowship. The project involves gender-inclusive language and first-year students, using different methods. Dr. Copland finished the first stage of data analysis, presented, and published on these early findings. This long-term project will impact future teaching not only in Dr. Copland's classroom, but can inform teaching across MacEwan's entire English 102 program, reaching almost every student on campus.
- Another illustration of the research-classroom connection comes from Dr. Sean Hannan (Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities) integrates digital humanities into the classroom. Dr. Hannan puts his research interests to work by teaching classes on pre-modern history, introducing students to a wide range of ideas and perspectives focusing on conflicts within specific contexts. He is also a productive classics scholar with a recently published book *Reading Augustine: On Time, Change, History, and Conversion* (Bloomsbury 2020). He shared this work at the Humanities History Bites presentation, "Don't Live in the Now: What Ancient Christianity Has to Tell About Time."

### **Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Scholarship**

*Our scholarship is collaborative and interdisciplinary. We are seeing more cross-department collaboration and projects develop out of shared interests that transcend disciplinary lines.*

- Dr. Josh Toth (Associate Professor, Department of English) has a three-year SSHRC Insight Grant for an ongoing project on metafiction, and mentors two student research assistants to help build an online (and interactive) annotated bibliography of metafiction in America. In addition to conference presentations and keynotes, Dr. Toth has published a third book and is working on a fourth. Along with Philosophy colleague, Dr. Alain Beauclair (Assistant Professor, Humanities), Dr. Toth is organizing a large international conference in Banff for which they have applied for a SSHRC Connection Grant.
- Dr. Melissa Hills (Associate Professor, Department of Biological Science) and Dr. Alissa Overend (Associate Professor, Department of Sociology) joined forces to undertake a project on Universal Design for Learning (UDL). UDL creates accessible learning environments to benefit all students, including those with disabilities. Such practices decrease the need for students to self-advocate and disclose personal information, and reduces the pressure on student services units (e.g. Access for Disability Resources) to facilitate accommodations. Their study aimed to assess faculty understanding and practice of UDL and explore challenges and opportunities at MacEwan University. Based on qualitative interviews and a faculty survey, the researchers made several recommendations including: strategic and selective use of educational and outreach opportunities in tandem with top-down approaches; and a more consistent implementation of UDL, which, they argue, can be achieved while respecting faculty autonomy and diversity in pedagogical practices.



### **Local and Community Based Scholarship**

*Many projects involve partnerships with local communities and focus on finding solutions to real-world problems.*

- Dr. David McFadyen (Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences) is working collaboratively with departmental colleagues and community organizations to support student-led research using genetic tools. Dr. McFadyen works with students using DNA barcoding techniques to identify plant and animal species. These techniques can be applied to a variety of areas, including tracking invasive species, or identifying population health or movements in ecosystems. Dr. McFadyen reinvented his research program with the fundamental purpose of providing students with useful research experience.
- The work of Dr. Doriane Intungane (Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Economics and Political Science), who recently joined MacEwan, showcases Arts and Science community collaboration and research impacts both locally and internationally. Dr. Intungane received a Strategic Research Grant (along with three other MacEwan faculty members, Dr. Jennifer Long, Dr. Hellen Gateri, Dr. Rita Dhungel, and the Community Development in Neighbourhoods at the City of Edmonton) to examine systemic barriers faced by racialized workers in Edmonton.

### **International Scholarship**

*Our scholarship extends beyond Canada.*

- Dr. Andrea Wagner (Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Economics and Political Science) holds the prestigious international Jean Monnet Chair through the European Union's Erasmus+ program. Dr. Wagner's work is explicitly international and supports student learning with a focus on research and teaching on the future of the European Union. With the grant, Dr. Wagner is updating and expanding two courses (one on European Union politics and one on European Union economics) and working on two book projects: one on anti-corruption agencies in the European Union; and one on the Catalan crisis.
- Dr. Nicolae Strungaru's (Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics) work on quasicrystals received international acclaim. Dr. Strungaru was invited to present at the 23rd Congress and General Assembly of the International Union of Crystallography in Montreal (2014), at the Aperiodic 2015 meeting in Prague, Czech Republic (2015), and at the Oberwolfach Institute in Germany (2014, 2017). While the actual mathematics are very theoretical, Dr. Strungaru aptly translates the physical underpinnings of the research to a general audience.

### **Applied Scholarship**

*Our scholarship is implemented in real-world practice.*

- Dr. Nicholas Boers (Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science) developed tools to help streamline lab delivery. [eSubmit](#) is used for computer-assisted assessment of student assignments in CMPT 101, 103, 200, 201, and more. The tool provides students with immediate feedback and an opportunity to improve their work before an instructor completes the final assessment. Several students also had the opportunity to work on a production system for their capstone project. Dr. Boers also conducts research on wireless sensor networks with a focus on real-world problems such as (a) the impact of device orientation on received signal strength measurements and (b) the exploitation of external interference to synchronize device clocks.



- Dr. Andrew Howell (Professor, Department of Psychology) is a clinical and registered psychologist who specializes in the psychology of well-being. Dr. Howell's work on positive psychology, co-authored with a MacEwan student, was published in *Journal of Happiness Studies* (Howell, A. J. & Passmore, H. A. (2019) "Acceptance and Commitment Training (ACT) as a Positive Psychological Intervention: A Systematic Review and Initial Meta-Analysis Regarding ACT's Role in Well-Being Promotion Among University Students." Dr. Howell is conducting fascinating work on other-oriented hope. While hopefulness for or about oneself is a known construct in wellbeing and therapeutic contexts, other-oriented hope has received little attention. This focus differs from hopefulness about oneself and involves developing and testing this construct in a counselling intervention.
- An expert in statistical consultation, statistical design theory, data analysis, and structural equation modelling, Dr. Karen Buro (Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics) conducts scholarly activities largely focused on statistical consultation by offering support to faculty and student researchers across campus. Two examples of collaborations with Psychology colleagues that led to publications are: Howell, A. J., and Buro, K. (2015) "Measuring and Predicting Student Well-Being: Further Evidence in Support of the Flourishing Scale and the Scale of Positive and Negative Experiences." *Social Indicators Research*, 121, 903-915; **and** Jung, S. & Buro, K. (2016). "Appraising Risk for Intimate Partner Violence in a Police Context." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, September 2016.

### **Transformative Scholarship**

*Our scholarship can change the way we view others and ourselves.*

- Dr. Amanda Nelund (Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology) is concerned with bringing together feminist and other critical criminology's to explore possibilities for imagining and practicing justice differently. This research led to two significant publications. First, a solo-authored monograph titled, *A Better Justice? Community Programs for Criminalized Women* (2020) with UBC Press, supported by an Office of Research Services Publication Grant, that offers a carefully reasoned analysis of alternative, community-based justice programs for criminalized women. Second, she is co-editor of *Violence Interrupted: Confronting Sexual Violence on University Campuses*, (with colleagues Dr. Joanne Minaker and Dr. Diane Crocker). This timely collection presents different ways of thinking about sexual violence in post-secondary education, arguing for more connections among research and policy, education and prevention, and academic and community knowledge. The book project benefited from a SSHRC Aid to Scholarly Publishing grant and emerged by academic and community connections at a 2017 colloquium organized by the trio, which brought together researchers, community workers, activists, policymakers and students to engage in conversations about the challenges facing Canadian universities in relation to sexual violence (which was also partially funded by SSHRC).
- Another exemplar of transformative scholarship is Dr. Jennifer Long's work (Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Economics and Political Science). Dr. Long is a Cultural Anthropologist who specializes in migration and ethnic relations. Dr. Long holds a Strategic Research Grant, and she is also involved in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) research on Design Anthropology, studying the role of experiential learning, as well as doing an ethnography about white identity in Edmonton.



## Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications

### **Dr. Emilie LeBel (Assistant Professor, Department of Music) Composing Sonic Imaginings and Feelings of Nostalgia**

As a faculty member at MacEwan, Dr. Emilie LeBel maintains her artistic residency with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in her role as RBC Affiliate Composer. In November 2019, she presented her second composition for the orchestra, *Unsheltered*. Maestro Sir Andrew Davis, the orchestra and Dr. LeBel toured the piece to Ottawa (National Arts Centre), Montreal (La Maison Symphonique), and Toronto (Roy Thomson Hall).

Dr. LeBel's current artistic work is deeply grounded in landscape and sense of place, from exploring sonic imaginings of physical geography; to feelings of nostalgia attached to specific locales; to the sensation of passing through specific landscapes in Canada. This orchestral work continues this exploration with the notion of shelter feeling tenuous, slippery, and humming with an uneasy energy, suggesting something inevitable with the current climate crisis.

View samples of press coverage from the orchestra tour:

- <https://www.ludwig-van.com/toronto/2019/11/14/scrutiny-another-triumph-tso-sir-andrew-davis-conducts-russian-masters/>
- [http://concertonet.com/scripts/review.php?ID\\_review=14246](http://concertonet.com/scripts/review.php?ID_review=14246)
- <https://www.thewholenote.com/index.php/newsroom/beatcolumns-sp-2121861476/newmusic2/29601-textural-landscapes-and-epic-journeys>
- <https://artsfile.ca/give-her-shelter-tso-composer-emilie-lebel-captures-the-angst-of-our-times-in-new-work/>

Bringing her creative scholarship back to MacEwan, Dr. LeBel's work with the orchestra has directly impacted the orchestration class that she teaches to fourth-year students. Students learn how to compose for all of the instruments in the orchestra. She also weaves stories into her class from her experiences working with conductors, musicians, orchestra librarians and artistic administration staff, thereby preparing students for the interpersonal and business skills required for a successful career in music composition.

Dr. LeBel's compositions are also featured on several commercial recordings released in the last year:

- Luciane Cardassi, *Going North*, Redshift Records
- Anne Harley, *Voices of the Pearl*, Volume 3
- Mark Takeshi McGregor, *Lutalica*, Redshift Records
- Núcleo Música Nova Grupo de Pesquisa CNPq, *microFOLIA*, Universidade Estadual do Paraná



**Josée Chartrand (Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre)  
Analyses of the Oukrainsky Collection at the Museum of Performance and Design  
(MP+D) in San Francisco**

The Pavley-Oukrainsky Ballet was likely the first independent ballet company in the United States. Founded in 1922 and disbanded in 1931, this company performed in tandem with the golden age of the Russian Ballet. They also opened a school, and thereby disseminated ballet to the United States through both performance and training. Yet, prior to this study, this company's history was virtually absent from existing scholarship.

The Oukrainsky Collection at the MP+D consists of sixty-one accessioned costume pieces and five archival boxes of biographical documents that once belonged to Oukrainsky. These documents were used to discover and advocate the company's significance to the history of dance in the United States.

Initial fieldwork for this project was conducted in 2017, and an article was published in July 2020 in [\*Dress, the Journal of the Costume Society of America\*](#). This project was part of Chartrand's MA thesis research, which was supported by a Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship, and a Walter H. John Graduate Fellowship at the University of Alberta.

**Dr. Michael B. MacDonald (Associate Professor, Department of Music)  
CineWorlding: Cultural Studies in the Era of Digital Cinema**

The emergence of digital cinema in the mid-2000s changed the way people make and consume media, radically democratized cinema production and widely expanded its reach. How might researchers use digital cinema production to make cultural studies scholarship more accessible to students and the general public? Dr. MacDonald's research program, called CineWorlding, is funded by two grants from the Social Science and Humanities Council of Canada.

Dr. MacDonald has worked in digital cinema production as an ethnomusicologist for fifteen years, and has contributed to cine-ethnomusicology, studying music culture using cinema production methods. CineWorlding is an innovative approach to studying culture and is quite at home in the state-of-the-art Allard Hall at MacEwan University. Dr. MacDonald works with music communities using documentary and fiction film methods to co-create cinematic worlds that tell stories about music culture, while also creating a laboratory to study how the world of lived experience becomes a cinematic world. This filmmaking laboratory is an excellent environment for student research contributions. MacEwan students are active contributors to these research projects and several students have gone on to study filmmaking and research creation at other Canadian universities.

The film outcomes of the research have been screened internationally and have won several awards at film festivals. While exciting, this is only part of the project. Dr. MacDonald has published several academic articles in journals about making the films and the ways audiences have received the movie. CineWorlding has led to interesting interdisciplinary research questions about how people watch films. What kinds of educational opportunities do films create, and how might digital cinema production be used both as a research method and a pedagogical activity? Dr. MacDonald is active in giving keynote lectures and leading workshops



at international conferences and universities in Canada, the United States and Portugal. Dr. MacDonald has contracts for a book on CineWorlding with Bloomsbury Press (2021) and a book on digital cinema production with DIO Press, NYC (2020).

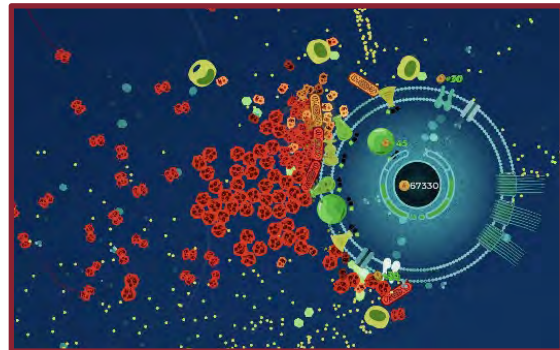
**Dr. Ross Shaw (Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences), Dr. Isabelle Sperano (Assistant Professor, Bachelor of Design) and Robert Andruchow (Assistant Professor, Bachelor of Design)**  
**Creating a Videogame to Teach Biology**

These faculty lead an interdisciplinary team of students and professors from MacEwan University to create a videogame for undergraduate biology students.

The educational video game environment from kindergarten to grade 12 is extensively developed. However, once at university, students seldom play video games as learning resources. Of the existing games developed for postsecondary students, most are often too serious or *not fun enough* to play and engage with.



In this three-year practice-based creative research project, the team designed a video game for undergraduate biology students that creates a rich learning experience and that is also fun to play. The project involved **seven** MacEwan faculty members and **fourteen** MacEwan undergraduate students from Biological Sciences, Art and Design, Computing Sciences and Music. *Life on the Edge* (LOTE) is a tower defense game that aims to strengthen knowledge of cellular biology. Students place structures in the cell membrane to defend their cell against fierce bacteria and viruses while maintaining homeostasis.



*Cell fighting against bacteria and viruses*

This non-traditional approach to research was extremely attractive to students. It gave them the opportunity to work on a real project and to be part of an interdisciplinary team of students and professors. The faculty members on the team were highly impressed by the quality of work produced by the students. This project offered meaningful learning opportunities and experiences not only for students but also for the faculty members involved.

This game created **by** students **for** students will be used in several BIOL107 sections in Fall 2020 and wider distribution is planned for 2021.



*Credits*



*Design student, Kía Valdez Bettcher (now graduated), works on a draft of Life on the Edge with Robert Andruchow from Biology Levels Up.*



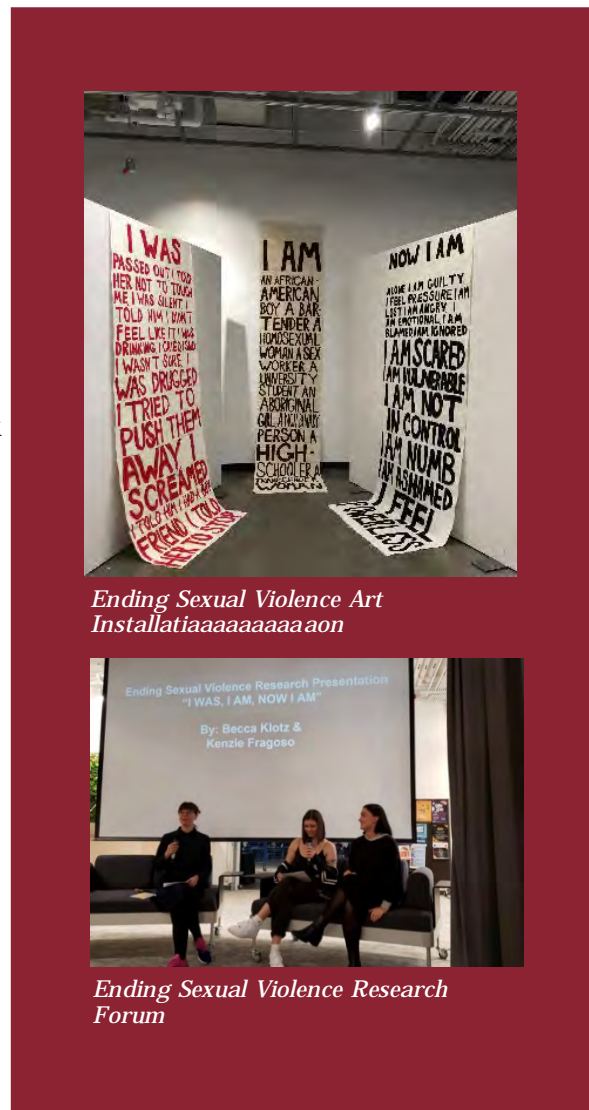
*Kevin Ho (centre) walks through the game with Dr. Isabelle Sperano (right) and Dr. Ross Shaw (left) from Biology Levels Up.*

**Elisabeth Belliveau (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications) Working with Students to Present the First Fine Art Project at the 2020 Ending Sexual Violence: Student Research Forum and Award**

This year, I had the opportunity to support two students in presenting the first fine art project at the Ending Sexual Violence: Student Research Forum and Award event.

It was an incredibly positive experience, bolstering the confidence for Fine Arts students sharing their artwork as vital in the context of academic and research discourse. Kenzie and Becca (Mackenzie Fragoso and Rebecca Klotz) prepared images of their collaborative art installation, along with images of work by other artists who influenced their creative research. They presented a project made in my - ARTE111 2D Foundations class that explored empathy and subjectivity in processing experiences of Sexual Violence.

Together we prepared questions that would help shape a conversation to share for the forum. An exciting conversation around the potential for visual art students to collaborate with other disciplines ensued, as well as audience questions and appreciative comments. There was recognition for the unique impact of visualizing research and how art can create opportunities to engage the public and address modes of knowing and sharing that are accessible to diverse audiences.



*Ending Sexual Violence Art Installatiaaaaaaaaaaon*

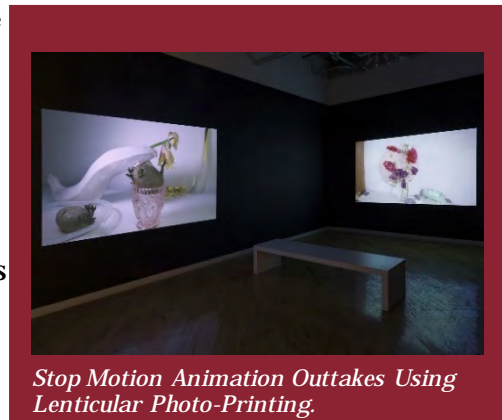
*Ending Sexual Violence Research Forum*





*Solo Exhibition and Publication at G44 Center for Contemporary Photography Toronto*

With the support of a FFAC Research Grant, I was able to further my research exploring contemporary still-life in the digital age and possibilities for conceiving moving image and material forms in the field of stop-motion animation. This year, I explored the unique material/process of \*lenticular photo-printing. Lenticular photo-printing permitted me to isolate select outtake frames from my stop-motion animations and present them in galleries as autonomous works without projection or screens.



I was invited by the Curator and Public Programs officer, Heather Rigg, to create a solo exhibition for Gallery 44 Centre for Contemporary Photography in Toronto from September 11, 2020 - October 24, 2020. This exhibition is featured as a core exhibition for the Scotiabank CONTACT photography festival – the largest annual photography festival in the world. I am the first artist working in stop-motion animation to be featured as part of this international photography event. Due to fortuitous timing, one of the animations in my exhibition also screened as part of the Virtual Toronto Nuit Blanche.

- My exhibition titled "[Alone in the House: Still Life with Clarice Lispector](#)"
- Online publication (essay by Heather Rigg): [Alone in the House](#)
- A physical publication with a poster, disseminated across Canada to museums, galleries, artist-run centers and G44 networks

This pivotal opportunity has also led to an invitation to participate in my first Art Toronto - International Art Fair taking place October 28 - November 3, 2020 with exhibitor MOMENTA | Biennale de l'image (Montreal).

\* Lenticular printing is a technology in which a collection of magnifying lenses is used to produce printed images with an illusion of depth or the ability to change or move as the image is viewed from different angles.



## Faculty of Health and Community Studies ○ ● ○

**Dr. Kristopher Wells (Associate Professor, Bachelor of Child and Youth Care)  
Canada Research Chair (Tier II) for the Public Understanding of Sexual and  
Gender Minority Youth Faculty**



*Dr. Kristopher Wells*

Dr. Kristopher Wells specializes in sexual and gender minority youth, education, health, sport and culture. He also holds MacEwan's first-ever Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Issues, and he continues to do incredible work given the funding and support provided by the prestigious position. Dr. Wells' Tier II Canada Research Chair focuses on three key areas in support of the public understanding of sexual and gender minority youth: investigating and supporting inclusive and responsive policies; developing equitable and evidence-informed practices; and encouraging the full and equitable participation of LGBTQ2S+ youth in all aspects of our society.

He is one of the driving forces behind the creation of many ground-breaking initiatives including [PrideTape](#) and [NoHomophobes.com](#), which has been featured across the world in more than 50 publications including the *Economist*, *Atlantic*, *Independent* and *Guardian*. These are some of his efforts that align with his work, and he hopes to create new courses, research opportunities for undergraduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and develop new, innovative resources and tools to help increase public understanding of sexual and gender minority youth in Canada.

Dr. Wells also led the development for the [Centre for Sexual & Gender Diversity](#) at MacEwan University. The Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity develops inclusive and responsive policies that support research, teaching and service work related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression on campus and in the community. Supported by the Canada Research Chair in Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Issues, we develop inclusive and responsive policies, support evidence-informed practices and encourage the full and equitable participation of sexual and gender minorities on campus and in society.

Related articles:

- [Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity - MacEwan University](#)
- Wells, K. (Feature Interview). (2020, December 16). [LGBTQ2 members say they experienced conversion therapy at Kingston, Ont. Church](#). Global News.
- Wells, K. (Feature Interview). (2021, January 18). [No plans in Ottawa for conversion therapy bylaw, mayor says after Kingston moves toward ban](#). Global News.
- Wells, K. (Interview). (2021, January 25). [Saskatoon councillors approve draft of bylaw to ban conversion therapy](#). CBC News.



**Dr. Cynthia Puddu (Director, Community Engaged Scholarship; Assistant Professor, Bachelor of Physical Education Transfer, Department of Allied Health and Human Performance)  
Community-Based Participatory Research**

Dr. Cynthia Puddu is very interested in using her teaching and research to work as an ally and advocate for populations historically silenced. Using community-based participatory research methods, she works closely with homeless youth in Edmonton, sharing their stories of difficulty and success. She uses these stories and experiences in teachings about health, and to show her students the importance of advocating for those who may not have a strong voice in the community.

Community-engaged scholarship generally relies on in-person, face-to-face contact. But, when COVID-19 made connecting with community partners who serve vulnerable communities more challenging, Dr. Puddu, along with her MacEwan research colleagues decided to take a different approach. They used design thinking and crowdsourcing to find innovative ways to provide community organizations with the information they need to address the many challenges the pandemic presents. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19 has exacerbated social inequalities in North America, with unemployment rising to record levels. Housing security has also been severely impacted by the crisis. Dr. Puddu discusses the links between housing affordability and potential solutions to this social crisis, such as a Universal Basic Income and the need to treat housing as a human right in this 2020 [blog post.](#)

Related articles:

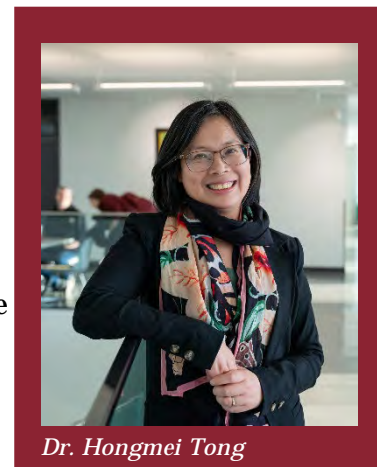
- [Social Problems in the Age of COVID-19 Vol 1](#) – Book Chapter
- [Faculty Makes Sure Community-Engaged Scholarship Continues](#)
- [Homelessness is North America's Pandemic Within a Pandemic](#)

**Dr. Hongmei Tong (Assistant Professor, School of xSocial Work)  
Refugee Mental Health in Canada**

Dr. Hongmei Tong's expertise relates to social exclusion and integration of ethno-cultural older adults, mental health in later life, gerontological social work education and practice, social determinants of health and digital storytelling.

Her scholarly goals are to promote and facilitate healthy, positive and active aging for older Canadians, and her program of research interests includes three streams:

- Social exclusion in later life
- Culturally appropriate and innovative health interventions, including the utilization of technology in promoting the health of disadvantaged ethno-cultural minority groups, palliative care, grief and loss
- Teaching pedagogy and learning in social work education



*Dr. Hongmei Tong*



In a 2020 study published in the *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, Dr. Tong and her colleagues from universities across the country found that 24 per cent of refugees in the study's sample were experiencing psychological distress compared to 13 per cent of their peers born in Canada. Dr. Tong says the ultimate goal is to use the study's findings to create and support strategies that can address mental health issues among older adults who are refugees. Trauma informed care and mental health resources, for example, could help improve resilience and reduce mental illness. The study's findings also emphasize the impact of social connectedness and physical health on the mental health of refugees.

Dr. Tong's research is part of a seven-year, \$2.5 million research project funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Grant that is developing interventions to help reduce social isolation and promote connectedness among older immigrants in Canada.

Related articles:

- [One in Four Refugees are in Psychological Distress Even Decades After Resettlement, Study Shows](#)
- [Can Social Work Help Solve Issues with Long-Term Care?](#)
- [Depression Linked to Nutrition in Middle-Aged and Older Canadians](#)

**Dr. Tricia Lirette (Department Chair and Associate Professor, Faculty of Human Services and Early Learning)  
2019 Distinguished Research Award Recipient**

Dr. Tricia Lirette was awarded the Distinguished Research Award in 2019, in recognition of her many years of research successes, including the work conducted by her team on the development of a curriculum framework helping early learning educators reflect on their practices. Thus, shifting them from doing what has always been done toward intentional curriculum decision-making. This research was adopted by the Alberta government in 2018 and is utilized as the cornerstone of their subsidized child care program.

Dr. Lirette's areas of expertise include early learning and child care policy, family-centred practice, out-of-school care, child care accreditation and curriculum development. Her dissertation research was entitled *The Social Organization of Child Care in Alberta: An Institutional Ethnography*. She has travelled twice to Reggio Emilia, Italy – home of a world-renowned system of municipal preschools. She continues to wrestle with the provocations and implications that arose from those tours, and helps others make meaning of the Reggio philosophy in their own context.

In March 2020, Dr. Lirette and Lee Makovichuk, Assistant Professor, Human Services and Early Learning, were awarded a seventh grant from the Government of Alberta Ministry of Children's Services to deepen understandings of how a curriculum framework supports children's play and learning and strengthens the capacity of early childhood educators across Alberta.

Related articles:

- [MacEwan University Announces 2019 Distinguished Research Award Recipient](#)
- [Never Underestimate the Potential of a Piece of Cardboard](#)
- [Comment: Our Children Have Something Important to Say. Will We Listen?](#)



**Colette Foisy-Doll (Simulation Program Coordinator)  
Clinical Simulation Centre**

Colette Foisy-Doll has 30+ years of experience in nursing education and started teaching with the Faculty of Nursing at MacEwan University in 1984. Since 2003, she has served as a Professional Resource Faculty member and simulationist in undergraduate nursing and healthcare programs.

Most recently, she suggested the option of using virtual simulation to assist faculty members and their students during the quick shift to teach and learn digitally – as a result, more than 200 nursing students were able to complete clinical placements initially cancelled due to COVID-19. Faculty are now using virtual reality products as one strategy, among many, to enhance electronic course design and promote a more robust learning experience for students during these challenging times.

[Learn more.](#)

Colette Foisy-Doll has collaborated on a large multi-institutional research and inter-professional education (IPE) project in Edmonton for the past nine years. Other research initiatives include the validation and psychometric analysis of a new tool (SCORS: Simulation Culture Organizational Readiness for Simulation), as well as the use of andragogical principles to support the diverse needs of learners in simulation-based learning.



## Faculty of Nursing

### **Dr. Jill Vihos (Department Chair and Assistant Professor, Department of Interprofessional Education and Simulation Learning) Planetary Health: Connections Between Environment and Health**

“While public health advancements including vaccines, antibiotics and medical imaging have translated into a significant increase in human life expectancy over the past two centuries, our planet’s health isn’t faring as well. Addressing issues that include climate change, pollution and declining biodiversity will require innovation and change on many fronts, including from [the world’s more than 20 million nurses](#),” says Dr. Jill Vihos, chair of the Department of Interprofessional Education and Simulation Learning.

“Nurses are positioned to be leaders in building awareness and advocating for practices to protect both nature and health,” she says. It’s why the university’s Faculty of Nursing is excited to become a partner in the Planetary Health Alliance, an international consortium of more than 200 universities, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and government entities working together to facilitate opportunities for learning, collaboration and knowledge development. Membership means that faculty members and students in the Faculty of Nursing now have access to additional resources, mentorship and opportunities to promote planetary health.

As nursing education shifts to incorporate this global focus, learners in courses like the Bachelor of Science in Nursing’s HLST 354 – Healthy Populations and HLST 400 – Global Health Perspectives are looking beyond individual patients and considering the many variables that impact health including geography, population displacement, new disease patterns, stresses on air quality, food production and water systems.

Dr. Vihos states, “Focusing on planetary health means uncovering and understanding the relationships between global environmental change and the impact it has on the health of individuals and populations.” One student in Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto’s global health course, for example, looked at issues connected to climate change – including extreme temperatures and air quality – and issues connected to how health-care professionals might move patients from one setting to another.

When nursing students gain an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary perspective on health, they also develop their capacity as global citizens, says Dr. Burgess-Pinto. “They practice from an understanding that all people and their environments are interconnected – that they are members of a world community with shared concerns – and they embrace approaches that address the complex challenges affecting the health of people and the planet.”

Related articles:

- [Where Climate Change and Patient Care Meet](#)



**Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto (Assistant Professor, Bachelor of Science and Nursing)  
Interprofessional Education and Simulation Learning**



Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto is the first recipient of MacEwan University's new Chair of International Health Research in 2020. As the Chair of International Health Research, Dr. Burgess-Pinto will receive a one-time grant to support her project, which will explore the perceptions of nursing in Ukraine. She will be leading a project in partnership with Ternopil National Medical University in Ukraine and the Catholic University of the Maule in Chile, that focuses on COVID-19, and will work alongside Dr. Mary Asirifi, Dr. Judee Onyskiw and Larisa Hayduk at MacEwan, along with Dr. Svitlana Yastremska and colleagues from Ternopil National Medical University.

Overall, Dr. Burgess-Pinto's research interests include the health of immigrant and refugee children and families, international and intercultural nursing, and planetary health. Her research experience includes being the National Coordinator for the New Canadian Children & Youth study, an interdisciplinary survey of the well-being of immigrant and refugee children and youth in six Canadian cities. Her professional practice and research interests also include qualitative research methods, narrative inquiry, action research, survey research, relational ethics and practice, global health, immigrant/refugee child and family health and heutagogical approaches to nursing undergraduate education.

Dr. Burgess-Pinto currently teaches courses in population health, nursing research methods and healthy young families. Her clinical experiences and interests are primarily in the fields of pediatrics/child health nursing and community health nursing. She has taught courses in community health nursing, population health, global health, and research methods, and co-developed a graduate course on migration and health in the Canadian context.

Related articles:

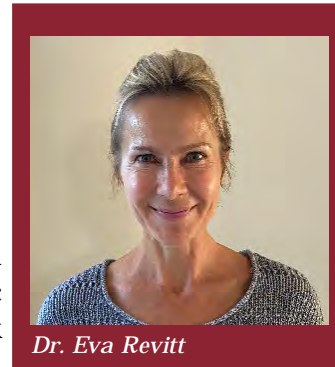
- [New Chair of International Health Research](#)
- [ResearchGate](#) - Publications



## Library Services ○ ● ○

### **Dr. Eva Revitt (Copyright and Social Sciences Librarian) Librarians' Work as Women's Work!**

How is it that managing a budget is perceived as more complex than working with marginalized populations? How is it that we value libraries and library collections but stereotype librarians as 'shooshing' ladies that check out books? The impetus for Eva's research was what sociologist Dorothy Smith called a "bifurcation of consciousness"—a disconnect between how she, as an academic librarian, understood her work and its value versus how that work was mirrored back to her. She wanted to examine how the devaluation of work perceived as women's work, specifically the invisibility of librarians' expertise and intellectual labour, actually comes about. This exploration culminated in an award-winning doctoral dissertation, *The Academic Librarian as the Subaltern: An Institutional Ethnography of a Feminized Profession*, the winner of the 2020 Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Competition awarded by the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE).



Eva's research maps out how institutional processes and texts such as policies, collective agreements, reports and the standards of accreditation and professional bodies frame librarians' work as a function and an accomplishment of the library. Librarians' work must be described in a certain way because it is needed to fulfill an organizational rather than an academic purpose—demonstrating the value of the library.

Texts and processes reveal *how* things actually happen so that librarians' experiences as academic staff are such as they are; however, it is ideology as a way of thinking and sense-making that helps us understand *why* things are the way they are. Eva proposes that two ideological codes—*women's work* and *the library*—permeate how we think and talk. An ideological code is a useful analytical tool. Ultimately, she links the devaluation of librarians' work, and thus work that is perceived as women's work, to the necessary gendered exploitation of labour that happens within a capitalist mode of production.

As human beings we have a need to understand what is happening in our lives. This research is significant for helping to satisfy that need. It reveals how and why, despite significant progress, frustrating gendered stereotypes continue to persist. The findings are empowering and emancipatory because they provide a breadcrumb of what needs to change from the micro to the macro level.





**Lindsey Whitson (Community Engagement Librarian)  
pimatisiwin/The Art of Living**

This past year, Lindsey Whitson (Community Engagement Librarian) and co-investigators Dr. Katie Sinclair (Assistant Professor, Anthropology) and Dr. Jennifer Long (Assistant Professor, Anthropology), have undertaken a community engaged research project with the Edmonton Indigenous Seniors Center (EISC), pimatisiwin/Life: The Art of Living. Supported by a SSHRC Institutional Grant, they have partnered with EISC to create respectful, ethical teaching and learning opportunities between MacEwan students and Indigenous seniors with a goal of creating and sharing, for three semesters, a book of Elder teachings and student reflections on the learning experience. Witnessing the growth of relationships between the participants – through the ceremonies, classroom discussions, student consults and the resulting book – has been amongst the most meaningful experiences of Lindsey’s practice at MacEwan.




**BACKGROUND**

In April 2019, the Edmonton Indigenous Seniors Centre approached instructors at MacEwan University to enter into a project partnership. This partnership would pair Elders associated with the Edmonton Indigenous Seniors Centre with students enrolled in Anthropology 250: Canadian Indigenous Peoples. The goal was to create relationships and opportunities for the Elders to share their knowledge with MacEwan University students.

Across the fall semester (September to December), students met with Elders to record the Elders’ knowledge, stories, and teachings. The Elders spoke on many different topics including life histories, climate change, sewing, food, politics, change over time, and more. This book brings together some of the knowledge that was shared.

The project has benefited from the support of many. Firstly, thank you to the Elders and students who participated in the creation of this book. The work you have done is inspiring and represents a meaningful way to grow teaching and learning relationships. Secondly, thank you to the staff and volunteers at the Edmonton Indigenous Seniors Centre for providing feasts and other support to the project. Thanks are likewise due to the faculty and staff at MacEwan University, and to the Department of Anthropology, Economics, and Political Science in particular for providing material support for the project. Finally, thank you to the Office of Research Services at MacEwan University for the funding to print this book, and Steven Stefanuk for the cover and introductory photos.

— Jane Woodward, Dr. Katie Sinclair, Dr. Jenn Long, and Lindsey Whitson



Edmonton Indigenous Seniors Centre  
&  
MacEwan University

Fall 2019

*pimatisiwin/*  
**Life:**  
**The Art of**  
**Living**



**Jody Nelson (Nursing Librarian), Alison Foster (User-Experience Librarian) and Dr. Mary Asirifi (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Nursing)**  
**Aligning Blended Information Literacy Instruction with Principles of Evidence-Based Practice for Meaningful Nursing Instruction**

Does framing library instruction through a disciplinary lens impact Nursing students' understanding and perception of using Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) to inform their work? This past year, Principal Investigator Jody Nelson (Nursing Librarian), and co-investigators Ali Foster (Instructional Design Librarian) and Mary Asirifi (Assistant Professor), worked together to design and implement a blended learning intervention for students in NURS 270: Nursing Care Across the Lifespan. The rationale for this SoTL project was based on student and instructor feedback of the library intervention previously included in the course. The goal of the project is to determine if redesigning the session to meld information literacy principles with the principles of EPB would impact students' perception and development of key information literacy/EBP skills. Students participating in this study may gain a greater awareness of their own understanding and perceptions of EBP, as well as their own self-rated, self-efficacy (confidence) in relation to targeted aspects of EBP. It is also the hope that by inviting students to reflect on EBP attitudes, perceived confidence and EBP knowledge prior to the intervention that they may also have an enhanced view of the value of this learning intervention. And, as they complete the post-survey, they may gain confidence as they reflect on changes in their EBP knowledge, attitudes and perceived confidence.

This SoTL project was officially launched in the Winter 2020 term and employed pre- and post-assessment of the intervention via an online Student Survey. The questionnaire is adapted from the Student Evidence-Based Practice Questionnaire (S-EBPQ) developed by Upton, Scurlock-Evans and Upton (2015), a validated EBP questionnaire, with the addition of self-rated confidence questions (as pre-test). The investigators will use the results of this study to inform future revisions and development of the blended Library EBP Intervention, which consists of an online pre-class tutorial and an in-class session focused on active learning. Beyond MacEwan, the results of this study will be of interest to library instructors in the health science/EBP disciplines and will contribute to the limited body of SoTL work looking at student learning through blended library instruction interventions.



*MacEwan University Library Staircase and Clock Tower*



## Office of Research Services



MacEwan University's research, scholarly and creative activity (RSCA) priorities remain anchored in our undergraduate mandate and long-term reputation as a hub for community engagement. The 2019-20 year was significant for the building of our research foundation at MacEwan. In September 2019 we welcomed our new Associate Vice-President, Research, Dr. Craig Kuziemsky. Dr. Kuziemsky's mandate is to strategize and develop the research landscape at MacEwan, drawing on our organizational pillars including student-engaged research and an engaged university.

While MacEwan is an undergraduate university, RSCA is a key part of our educational mandate as the integration of teaching and RSCA provides a better-quality education for our students. Our RSCA engages our students, faculty and the community to generate outcomes that benefit all of society. At the student level, work integrated and experiential learning opportunities allow our students to graduate with the knowledge and practical skills to address complex societal problems. This ensures our graduates are well positioned to contribute to the economic and social growth of Alberta, as well as nationally and internationally.

MacEwan University's Office of Research Services (ORS) supports research, scholarly and creative activity at all stages of its lifecycle—planning, development, implementation and knowledge mobilization. We provide information on funding opportunities, host workshops, ensure ethical standards are met, and assist with project management (hiring research assistants, expense management, financial reporting, etc.).

ORS supports RSCA to enable our faculty to achieve research excellence at regional, national and international levels. ORS provides internal research grants to support RSCA and support applications for Tri-Agency, governmental, not-for-profit and private research funding.

In 2019-20, MacEwan researchers were awarded:

- **53 Internal faculty awards, valuing \$288,338.85**
- **18 External faculty awards, valuing \$1,218,421.88**

While much of our external funding comes from the federal Tri-Agencies, we also have other external success stories. In January 2020, Dr. Samuel Mugo (Associate Professor, Chemistry) was awarded a grant from Alberta Innovates through the Agricultural Funding Consortium. The grant carries a value of \$70,000 and will support Dr. Mugo's research in developing electrochemical plant sensors for small, low-cost, real-time plant analytics in the field.

### Canada Research Chair – Dr. Kristopher Wells

The Canada Research Chairs Program invests almost \$300 million each year as the centre of a national strategy to attract and retain a diverse group of world-class researchers, and to promote academic research and training excellence in Canadian post-secondary institutions.

A significant achievement for MacEwan University in May 2019 was the appointment of MacEwan's first Tier 2 Canada Research Chair for the Public Understanding of Sexual and Gender Minority Youth to Dr. Kristopher Wells of the Faculty of Health and Community



Studies. More information on Dr Wells' research can be found in the [Health and Community Studies](#) section of this report.

### **Community Engaged Scholarship**

In the fall of 2019, ORS established the Community Engaged Scholarship Grant to support greater partnerships between MacEwan researchers and community organizations for co-developed research and scholarship exchange. These grants are designed to directly address the needs of the community partner and provide opportunities for students to become involved in community engaged research.

In 2020, the inaugural recipients of this grant were:

- Dr. Rita Dhungel (Assistant Professor, School of Social Work) and the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, for research in building relationships between local community leagues and their local residents
- Dr. Heather Fitzsimmons Frey (Assistant Professor, Arts and Cultural Management) and Fort Edmonton Park, for research in local youth as living history volunteer programs
- Dr. Michael MacDonald (Assistant Professor, Music) and the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights, for research in analyzing the reach and scope of a social justice media free school for communities underrepresented in media

### **Student-Engaged Research**

Student engaged research remains a core component of our RSCA and provides valuable experiential learning beyond the classroom. The skills gained by participating in research at the forefront of knowledge provides MacEwan students with unique opportunities that are attractive to employers and in future studies.

Direct support of student researchers is provided through the Undergraduate Student Research Initiative (USRI) and NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) programs.

USRI funding supports students engaging in novel research and participation in knowledge mobilization activities such as presenting their research at conferences or through creative performances.

The NSERC USRA is awarded to students in the natural sciences at the top of their class, working under the supervision of NSERC Discovery Grant holders as early training for further study in academia.

In 2019-20, MacEwan students were awarded 49 internal student awards, valuing \$156,058.00. Not included in this funding are the numerous MacEwan student researchers who are often hired as research assistants (RAs) on internal and external faculty research grants. In this regard, MacEwan students represent both a large workforce and a substantial research resource.

### **Research Excellence by Our Faculty Board of Governor Research Chairs**

In June 2020 we announced that Dr. Cristina Anton (Professor) and Dr. Fernando Angulo-Ruiz (Associate Professor) were awarded the Board of Governor (BOG) Research Chairs. Dr. Anton is



a faculty member in the department of mathematics and statistics and currently holds an NSERC Discovery Grant. Her primary research interests include differential equations and machine learning algorithms that can be applied to many disciplines. Dr. Angulo-Ruiz is a faculty member in the School of Business. His research examines determinants and outcomes of business marketing strategies, and the balance between profit and social citizenship of commercial ventures – particularly those led by historically underrepresented groups in society.

Our 2020 BOG chairs bring the total number of BOG chairs up to six since the award was started in 2018. BOG Chairs helped grow our research culture and increase the quantity and quality of our research output. More information about our current and past BOG chairs is available here: [Board of Governors Research Chairs announced - MacEwan University](#).

### **Distinguished Research Award**

The recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Research Award was Dr. Christopher Striemer (Associate Professor, Department of Psychology). Dr. Striemer received the award in recognition of his high-quality scholarly achievements, his dedication to student mentorship and development as Highly Qualified Personnel. More information on Dr. Striemer's research award, as well as the previous Distinguished Research Award winners, is available here: [Congratulations to 2020 research award recipient - MacEwan University](#).

### **Research Excellence by Our Students**

In March of 2020, the Office of Research Service made the difficult but necessary decision to cancel MacEwan's annual Student Research Day, planned for April 27, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In partnership with the MacEwan University Library, ORS extended an invitation to the students who had submitted proposals for the event to have their work featured online on the [Student Research Day Proceedings](#) site, and archived in MacEwan's online research repository ([RO@M](#)). More than 70 students took this opportunity to share their papers, PowerPoint slides, posters, creative works and recordings of the presentations they had planned to give. Through this initiative, the remarkable work of MacEwan's students has been shared much more broadly than if it had just been presented within the walls of the campus. This put a spotlight on our student's achievements, disseminating their research and scholarship with the academic community, and providing them with online copies of works for inclusion in graduate school applications, resumes and portfolios.

### **Research Ethics Board**

All research involving human participants is reviewed by MacEwan's Research Ethics Board (REB) to ensure research conducted by faculty, staff and students meets the highest ethical standard. The 2019-20 academic year was a busy one; when considering all categories of application activities, we saw approximately 60% more activity overall than the year prior, and the REB reviewed more new research project submissions in a single academic year than ever before.



## Animal Research Ethics Board

The Animal Research Ethics Board (AREB) led the university through a successful regular audit by the Canadian Council on Animal Care, which resulted in MacEwan being awarded a Certificate of Good Animal Practice. This ensures our researchers can continue to conduct research involving animals and confirms the high quality of our animal care and use program. The development of a new centralized fish facility, currently in progress, further demonstrates our commitment to maintaining high standards in housing and caring for animals involved in research and teaching.

## Contact Us

For more information about research, scholarly and creative activities happening at MacEwan University, please contact the Office of Research Services at 780-497-4156 or [research@macewan.ca](mailto:research@macewan.ca).

The Office of Research Services is grateful for the support received from the Research Support Fund. The Research Support Fund is a Government of Canada program that assists Canadian post-secondary institutions with the expenses associated with managing research projects that have been funded by the three federal research granting agencies: CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC.

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*Chemistry, Physics and Planetary Science Lab (2020)*

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