



Manitoba Research Alliance Student Colloquium

Thursday, May 15, 2014

WestEnd Commons, Assembly Hall (lower level)

9:15 – *Welcome and Opening Remarks* – John Loxley

JUSTICE, SAFETY, AND SECURITY

Elizabeth Comack

9:30 - *Street Gangs in Winnipeg: Inner-City Youth Prevention Programs as Sites of Resistance?* - Daniel Levin

9:55 – *Gender and Justice: A Feminist Analysis of Informal Justice* - Amanda Nelund

HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD REVITALIZATION

Jim Silver

10:20 - *The End of Social Housing Operating Agreements in Manitoba* - Sarah Cooper

10:45 – Coffee Break

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

John Loxley

11:10 - *Longitudinal and Spatial Analysis of VLT Gambling in Manitoba: Impacts on Gambling Behaviour and Economic Outcomes at the Community Level* - Prosper Koto

11:35 - *Preserving the History of Urban Aboriginal Organizations in Winnipeg* - Sarah Story

12:00 – 1:00 - Lunch

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Sauna MacKinnon

1:00 - *Fresh Fuel: The CanU Food Club* - Mihiri Witharana

1:25 – *Defining Effective Supports for Students with Emotional and Behavioural Disorders: The Wraparound Approach in the Context of a Community School* - Nadine Bartlett

1:50 – *Indigenous Knowledge and Evaluation By and For Communities* - April Blackbird

2:15 – *Closing Remarks* – Lynne Fernandez

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

JUSTICE, SAFETY, AND SECURITY

Street Gangs in Winnipeg: Inner-City Youth Prevention Programs as Sites of Resistance? - Daniel Levin

The presentation will discuss some of the ways in which community based organizations are able to resist neoliberal language and this broader political framework. This will include some discussion of what is meant by "at risk" and the extent that this terminology is employed in the design and implementation of street gang prevention programs, the use of alternative sources of funding to avoid program restrictions, the ability of street gang prevention programs to redefine what is meant by "success", and the extent to which community based street gang prevention programs are able to act as sites of resistance within the current neoliberal framework.

Gender and Justice: A Feminist Analysis of Informal Justice - Amanda Nelund

This presentation will discuss my dissertation research, which examines alternative justice programs, programs run by non-profit organizations in the community that serve women who have committed a crime. The focus of my presentation will be the ways in which staff at these programs conceptualize the criminalized woman. Who is she? What crime has she committed? Why does she commit crimes? I look at how these conceptualizations either fit with or resist dominant neoliberal ideas around criminalized women.

HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD REVITALIZATION

The End of Social Housing Operating Agreements in Manitoba - Sarah Cooper

In Manitoba, the end of social housing operating agreements is changing how social housing is provided. The capacity of the provincial government to provide RGI housing is reduced as federal funding is reduced. Non-profit organizations and cooperatives are no longer required to provide subsidized housing, and many face financial challenges as their buildings age and require repairs. In this context, the responses of individual social housing providers are not sufficient to offset the federal cuts and provide good quality, affordable housing for low-income households. The overall numbers of RGI and subsidized housing units are dropping, making it ever more difficult for low-income households to find good-quality affordable housing.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Longitudinal and Spatial Analysis of VLT Gambling in Manitoba: Impacts on Gambling Behaviour and Economic Outcomes at the Community Level - Prosper Koto

The purpose of this research project is to ascertain the benefits and costs to a society

resulting from gambling and to ascertain factors that determine gambling patterns in Aboriginal communities. The research will use data collected by the Manitoba gaming commission and the Census 2006 and 2011 data from Statistics Canada. It will draw up available data on how much and what type of gambling is conducted in the Aboriginal communities in Manitoba. It will examine how this has changed over time and relative to both population and income growth in these communities. Comparisons will be made with a sample of Non-Aboriginal communities.

Preserving the History of Urban Aboriginal Organizations in Winnipeg - Sarah Story

This presentation will provide a brief analysis of the project from an archival perspective. The presenter will discuss the importance of building partnerships to develop a sustainable and concerted effort to preserve records of inner-city organizations and individuals, highlighting the potentials and the challenges of such action. Finally, the presenter will outline two possible directions for her dissertation research in hopes of generating discussion on issues of information preservation in inner-city Winnipeg and soliciting feedback from those in attendance.

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Fresh Fuel: The CanU Food Club - Mihiri Witharana

Unhealthy eating patterns in children and their health consequences often drive the need for food and nutrition prevention programs. However, a review of child and youth food and nutrition programs indicates that variability exists in program characteristics, outcomes and evaluations. Therefore, it is important to evaluate programs in order to understand the discrepancy seen in achieving program outcomes and to improve existing programs. CanU is a growing community-based program that aims to improve health and improve academic potential in vulnerable children. "Fresh Fuel: The CanU Food Club" is one component of CanU that aims to increase food literacy and ultimately nutrition behavior in vulnerable children.

Defining Effective Supports for Students with Emotional and Behavioural Disorders: The Wraparound Approach in the Context of a Community School - Nadine Bartlett

The province of Manitoba has recently released an interdepartmental protocol entitled *Wraparound Supports for Children and Youth with Severe to Profound Emotional and Behavioural Disorder (Healthy Child Manitoba, 2013)*. The protocol outlines the use of Wraparound planning for students with emotional and behavioural disorders, which involves the integration of services and supports, as well as the need for collaborative planning among all stakeholders. Wraparound planning is an evidence-based practice that has been found to improve outcomes for children and youth with emotional and behavioural disorders [EBD]. This research study has been developed to determine the extent to which community schools in Manitoba possess the essential elements that support collaboration and the integration of support for children and youth with severe to profound emotional and behavioural disorders. This study will further explore the specific elements in community schools that may

support the implementation of Wraparound planning so that they might be replicated in other sites and/or expanded upon to improve future practice.

Indigenous Knowledge and Evaluation By and For Communities - April Blackbird

The purpose of this project is to aid inner-city community organizations in developing evaluation and expectation guidelines for funding organizations. In consultation with community workers, we are currently in the discourse stage in considering root systemic issues and barriers to funding. In addition, what “success” means through the lens of colonization versus decolonization and solutions in resisting the Neoliberal constraints and the changing nature of community work (and helping people) into a capitalist industry are of great concern. Currently, community workers and leaders have expressed interest in forming a community guideline or model in an attempt to shift or “push-back” against the current power structure that mandates how community organizations operate, define “success” and therefore how much funding they receive as a result (despite counter-productive results).