



this issue

- Director's Message
- Member's Research Highlight
Dean Cindy Peternelj-Taylor
- Topics from the Field
- Centre/Staff Dissemination

Welcome to the Forensic Centre's New/Returning Executive Committee Members

Dr. Carrie Bourssa

Scientific Director of the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health – Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Professor, Community Health and Epidemiology, College of Medicine

Professor Glen Luther

College of Law

A founding member of the Executive Committee

(2011 – 2016 and 2020 – 2023)

Message from the Director, Dr. Mansfield Mela

This newsletter was conceptualized to respond to members' expressed interest to collaborate. This is not surprising since we are a multidisciplinary research centre. The research profile on Professor Peternelj-Taylor, current updates, and twitter links to emerging issues in the field, all seek to stimulate engagement among faculty members, students and partners.

The Forensic Centre is currently in the process of developing its strategic plans and values. We are excited to have two experienced researchers join the Centre's Executive Committee; Professors Carrie Bourassa and Glen Luther will provide a strong medical and legal perspective to the committee and bring the much-needed Indigenous response to our work. We are excited to see an increased level of activity even with the Covid-19 restrictions. The Centre staff continue to be productive completing projects our partners are interested in and publishing their findings through various outlets.

We are delighted to bring you our first virtual offering of the longstanding biennial Violence & Aggression Symposium (June 2021).

The slate of keynote speakers and presenters is truly a collection of experienced and accomplished researchers worth your registration (when it opens in January 2021).

Our partners continue to provide a strong support for our activities. The Forensic Centre in turn focuses on completing relevant research that facilitates public safety. These projects fulfil our commitment and dedication to our public duty. An example of this is the recent outcome and cost analysis of the Saskatoon Mental Health Court, as well as a literature review and cost analysis of STR8 UP: 10,000 Little Steps to Healing, Inc. These projects were both completed without funding and we were pleased to be involved in such positive community development opportunities.

As you go through the sections, sense where collaboration is drawing you and reach out to us and we will direct you to the right target. We seek to inform, invite and interact with the community with research engagement in mind.

Enjoy the season!

Mansfield Mela, Director
CFBSJS



Cindy Peternelj-Taylor, Interim Dean, College of Nursing

Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies'
Executive Committee Member (2011 – 2014 and 2018-2021)

Forensic Centre Member's Research Highlight

Nursing in a Corrections Setting

Professor

Cindy Peternelj-Taylor

Professor Cindy Peternelj-Taylor, currently Interim Dean in the College of Nursing, was one of the founding members of the Executive Committee of the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies serving as the Nursing representative 2011 – 2014 and again 2018-2021.

Her expertise in the area of forensic mental health nursing has been invaluable to the Centre and university over the years and for that, we have Peternelj-Taylor's father to thank. During her BScN at Lakehead University, she completed one of the program's first justice-related community health placements in a Thunder Bay probation office, which peaked her interest in forensic psychiatric mental health. After graduating, many interesting local opportunities arose but in the early-80's, her father flagged a job posting at the Regional Psychiatric Centre (Prairies) in Saskatoon. Her original plan to stay for two years turned into three children, a Master's degree at USask, doctoral studies at the University of Alberta, a faculty position in the College of Nursing, and now after three decades with the College of Nursing, she is looking at winding down her career (but not slowing down) after completing her term as Interim Dean.

Much of Professor Peternelj-Taylor's teaching, research, and scholarship over thirty + years have focused on a qualitative approach to "person first" mental health in corrections settings vis-à-vis Othering, nurses' professional role development and education, and ethical issues that emerge from practice such as safe patient-practitioner boundaries. Her passion is evident through her involvement in planning and attending every biennial **Custody and Caring Conference** since its inception in 1989. The conference, which is held opposite years to the Forensic Centre's **Biennial Violence and Aggression Symposium** that she is also involved in planning, covers varying themes relevant to nurses and other health care professionals practicing at the interface of the health and criminal justice systems with the last offering on [*Social Justice in Forensic Mental Health and Correctional Nursing*](#). The 17th offering of the conference is tentatively scheduled for fall 2021.

When Cindy is not teaching (one of her favourite undergraduate courses to teach is [NURS 486.3 – Forensic Nursing in Secure Environments](#)), attending e-meetings (many, including this interview), keeping her many houseplants flourishing, and enjoying time with her grandkids; she is an active researcher. She has received three Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies' Faculty Grants to advance her research. The first as PI to survey Saskatchewan Provincial Correctional Nurses on Roles, Responsibilities, and Learning Needs and another as Co-PI to conduct Palliative Care in Corrections: A Scoping Review (Holtlander, L., Peternelj-Taylor, C., Burles, M., Duncan, I.). The original study on roles, responsibilities, and learning needs was expanded when Professors Woods (PI) and Peternelj-Taylor (I) received an additional CFBSJS grant to extend the study to other prairie provinces (Alberta and Manitoba). That work has been recently submitted for peer review.

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In March 2019, the [Journal of Correctional Health Care](#) published Phase I of Peternelj-Taylor and Woods' study, an online self-administered questionnaire of provincial (SK) correctional nurses to gain insight into their roles, responsibilities, and learning needs in relation to the complex area of practice. As part of the study, the team also conducted focus groups and individual interviews which Peternelj-Taylor hopes, in the future, to publish as Phase II. Both methods resulted in an evident gap in educational opportunities for correctional nurses and will provide a foundation for continuing education, practice, and the potential for future research. Peternelj-Taylor found the focus groups/interviews especially useful as nurses had the opportunity to speak freely about other challenges faced in the field. The feedback has potential to form other research questions, contribute to continuing education opportunities, and shape the topics of interest to frontline staff in future Custody and Caring conference offerings.

Since the study closed, Peternelj-Taylor has presented the findings at many venues including the Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health, National Commission on Correctional Health Care, International Association of Forensic Nurses, International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services, and at Nordic Mental Health Nursing Conference. She credits the CFBSJS for providing funds to enable this important, yet underserved area of nursing research.

The impact of this research has potential to form the availability and methods of professional education and development for not only nurses working in correctional settings but potentially nurses/health professionals in any field where lack of education opportunities may be a barrier.

In addition to serving on committees such as the CFBSJS Executive *and* taking on role of Dean during a pandemic, Peternelj-Taylor continues to lend her expertise in other ways. For the last 10 years she has served as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Forensic Nursing*, and in the late fall of 2019, she was invited to serve as Guest Editor for a special issue of [Nursing Leadership](#) dedicated to correctional nursing. The special issue focuses on innovations and opportunities for nurses to adopt leadership roles in the care of persons who are incarcerated. Her editorial entitled "Special Focus: Nursing in the Correctional Milieu" was influenced in part by the findings of her CFBSJS-funded study, and the idea that correctional nurses at times feel like second-class nurses, as the important work that they do is often hidden in any discussion of professional nursing. The special issue focuses on the significant role nurses play in the identification, treatment and management of complex health and psychosocial concerns experiences by persons in the criminal justice system. She is also currently revising (with two colleagues from Alberta – Dr. Wendy Austin and Dr. Diane Kunyk), *Psychiatric & Mental Health Nursing for Canadian Practice*, a comprehensive textbook now in its 5th edition. Peternelj-Taylor is particularly proud of her chapter on the care of persons under forensic purview, which has been a part of this comprehensive textbook from its inception.

Professor Cindy Peternelj-Taylor is a valued faculty member of the Forensic Centre and her continued collaboration, support, and work in the field are crucial to its continued success. Sincere thanks to Cindy and maybe more importantly, to her father for sharing the job posting that planted her family's roots in Saskatchewan.

See all of the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies Faculty Research Grants [HERE](#)

Topics from the Field

Prepared by Dr.
Davut Akca,
Research Officer

CFBSJS



Tom Cardoso @tom_cardoso · Oct 24

Bias behind bars: Risk assessments are used by the Correctional Service of Canada to place, treat and release federal inmates. But, as our two-year investigation found, they're also biased against Black and Indigenous people theglobeandmail.com/canada/article... #cdnpoli

Is bias-free risk assessment possible in Corrections?

A recent study showed that, in Canada, Black men are nearly 24 % more likely than White men to receive a "maximum" initial security rating, which affects their access to treatment programs.

Indigenous men are roughly 30% more likely than their white counterparts to be assigned the worst reintegration potential score, which plays a significant role in parole decisions.

Photo: @tom__cardoso



CommrRCMPGRC @CommrRCMPGRC · Nov 9

We're implementing mandatory anti-racism and cultural awareness training for all #RCMP employees. The training is being developed by external experts, and will focus on reducing discrimination while advancing racial equity, diversity and inclusion.

A positive step forward by the RCMP. What is next?

In the wake of political discussions on whether systemic racism exists within the RCMP, this is a positive step taken by the RCMP towards raising awareness on equity, diversity, and inclusion deserves appreciation.

Research needs to explore the risk factors behind discriminatory behaviours. How can the police recruitment process be developed to identify those risk factors and prevent systemic racism in advance?

Photo: @CommrRCMPGRC



Joshua Vaughn @Sentinel_Vaughn · Nov 5

Hey, since we're talking about Pa and Philly, a recent study tracked what happened after 176 people sentenced to LWOP as children were released since 2016.

Researchers found only 2 people were convicted of a new crime. 1% recidivism.

We can safely end LWOP

Re-thinking lengthy sentences and deterrence

A new study conducted in Philadelphia has found a recidivism rate (defined as reconviction for any offense) of just 1.14% among people who were sentenced as juveniles to life without the possibility of parole and then subsequently released.

This finding urges us to consider more restorative justice procedures than retributive options.

Photo: @Sentinel

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We welcome all feedback!

Please provide [HERE](#) at any time.

Centre/Staff
Research
Dissemination

Currently working remotely but normally we can be found at:
110A, 9 Campus Drive
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon SK S7N 5A5
Canada
306-966-2687
forensic.centre@usask.ca



CBC Saskatoon @CBCSaskatoon · Oct 31

Sask. had highest crime severity rate among Canadian provinces in 2019, Stats Can report says

Highest crime severity in SK persists

A spike in violent crimes resulted in Saskatchewan leading Canadian provinces in crime severity last year, according to the latest data from Statistics Canada.

Regina had the 3rd-highest crime severity index among large cities while Saskatoon had the 5th-highest.

Which evidence-based approaches can reduce the crime severity in SK?

Is more practitioner-research collaboration the solution? The Forensic Centre is ready to collaborate.

Peer reviewed articles (Published)

Eastwood, J.; Dunk, M.; & Akca, D. (2020). Assessing the Diagnosticity of a Persuasion-Based and a Dialogue-Based Interrogation Approach. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11896-020-09410-1>

San, S. & Akca, D. (2020). Authoritarian transformation in Turkey: How Turkey's democratic backsliding compromises international dimension of democratization? *Digest of Middle East Studies*.

Akca, D.; Bastug, M.F. & Ammar, N. (2020). Religious Services in Canadian Prisons. In Ed C. Cesaroni. *Canadian Prisons: Understanding the Canadian Correctional Landscape*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Perry, B.; Akca, D.; Karakus, F. & Bastug, M. F. (2020). Planting Hate to Harvest Hatred: How Does the Political Hate Speech Fuel Hate Crimes against Targeted Groups? *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*. <https://doi.org/10.5204/ijcjsd.v9i4.1514>

Onat, I.; Cubukcu, S.; Demir, F.; & Akca, D. (2020). Fueling Anti-Americanism in Turkey: Framing the News by the Pro-Government and International Media. *International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics*. https://doi.org/10.1386/macp_00021_1

Di Nota, P. M., Stoliker, B., Vaughan, A., Andersen, J. P., & Anderson, G. S. (Forthcoming). Stress and memory: A systematic state-of-the-art review with evidence-gathering recommendations for police. *Policing: An International Journal*.

Stoliker, B. E., & Galli, P. (2020). Prevalence and correlates of suicidal ideation and attempt according to prisoners' race/ethnicity: An exploratory analysis. *Race and Social Problems*. Advance Online Publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s12552-020-09310-3>

Stoliker, B. E., Verdun-Jones, S., & Vaughan, A. (2020). The relationship between age and suicidal thoughts and attempted suicide among prisoners. *Health & Justice*, 8(1), 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40352-020-00117-3>

Favril, L., Stoliker, B. E., & Vander Laenen, F. (2020). What differentiates prisoners who attempt suicide from those who experience suicidal ideation? A nationally representative study. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, 50(5), 975-989. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sltb.12638>

Online Articles

Akca, D. (2020). A tool for structure in missing persons investigations: Using self-administered interview protocol in Canada. BlueLine. <https://www.blueline.ca/a-tool-for-structure-in-missing-persons-investigations/>

Stoliker, B. E., Verdun-Jones, S., & Vaughan, A. (2020). Psychological and sociological perspectives on suicide: A multi-level examination of suicidal thoughts and attempted suicide among prisoners. *Archives of Suicide Research*. Advance Online Publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13811118.2020.1738294>

Academic Conference Presentations

Akca, D., Eastwood, J., Di Danieli, C. & Shane, M. (March, 2020). The Personality Effect on the Efficacy of Training for Investigative Interviewers. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Psychology & Law Society, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Snow, M. D.; Akca, D.; Eastwood, J.; Connors, C.; & Crough, Q. (March, 2020). Mock-Victim Perceptions of Police Interviewer Characteristics. Poster presented at the annual conference of the American Psychology & Law Society, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Research and Evaluation Reports

D. Akca, A. Kerodal, L. Jewell
[STR8 UP Literature Review and Cost Analysis](#)

A. Zidenberg, A. Kerodal, L. Jewell, K. Mathias, B. Smith, G. Luther, J.S. Wormith
[Evaluation fo the Sasaktoon Mental Health Strategy \(MHS\) Court: Outcome and Cost Analysis](#)



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