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## 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

## Dr. Segun Oyedokun

Associate Professor, College of Medicine

## Dr. Emily Snyder

Assistant Professor, Indigenous Studies and Women's and Gender Studies, College of Arts & Science

To become a member email

[forensic.centre@usask.ca](mailto:forensic.centre@usask.ca)

## Message from the Director, Dr. Mansfield Mela

After ten years of extraordinary achievements, Professor Steve Wormith left us much too early when he passed away in March 2019. May his soul rest in peace. He was the face we knew of the Centre for Forensic Behavioral Science and Justice Studies. Dr. Lisa Jewell stepped into those large shoes and navigated the path of transition successfully. On January 1, 2020, I assumed the position of Director of the Centre. Despite being one of the longest serving Executive Committee members of the Centre representing the College of Medicine, the learning curve as Director was still steep.

After meeting with most faculty members and staff of the Centre, we embarked on a repositioning exercise. With help from an expert, we have started down the path of strategic planning.

The collaborative foundation of the Centre taps into the benefit of interdisciplinary research. We are strengthening the partnership and establishing relationships with stakeholders with similar goals and ideals. We are currently exploring a mutually beneficial research relationship with the Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR). This is a model on how we can transform research in justice, crime and health.

The Forensic Centre collaborated with Correctional Service Canada (CSC) to address cognitive deficits among older offenders and those diagnosed with FASD. With partial funding from SHRF, we completed a study screening older offenders and are preparing to complete cognitive assessments. This research is the foundation for assessment based discharge planning whose value is its evidence base and cost efficiency. Public safety featured prominently as outcome for research supported by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections and Policing.

The Ministry of Corrections and Policing renewed our collaborative research agreement for five years (2020-2025). This is an extremely good thing towards maintaining the stability of our research projects. The tripartite agreement on the Saskatchewan Police Predictive Analytic Laboratory, with Saskatoon Police Service and the Ministry of Corrections and Policing, was also renewed for another five years. This pioneering work sets the Forensic Centre and its partners in a path to address many research questions.

The CSC has started a process that will eventually lead to an ethno culturally relevant risk assessment tool/process directed specifically for Indigenous offenders. I believe, if done well, the research will ultimately contribute to putting a 'dent' on the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the CJS. The Forensic Centre is an active member of the research team along with University of Regina. Collaborations such as this are needed for the interdisciplinary work we do.

Lastly, a big thank you to everyone helping to move the Centre forward, especially the excellent staff and students working on projects, even during the summer. The task of rebranding and focusing on research that impacts the lives of people and the society continues and I invite you all to support the endeavor.

Mansfield Mela, Director of the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies  
Professor, College of Medicine

Read the full version in our 19-20  
[Annual Report](#)

## Welcome to the Forensic Centre's newest research staff members

### Dr. Bryce Stoliker

Bryce joined the Centre in August 2020 as a Postdoctoral Fellow. He holds a B.A. (Hons.) double major in Psychology with Thesis & Criminology, an M.A. in Sociology, and a Ph.D. in Criminology. He is generally interested in epidemiological criminology and the intersection of persons with mental illness at various levels of the criminal justice system (especially policing and corrections). His research aims to incorporate both psychological and sociological perspectives to improve insight into various topics and issues concerning the criminal justice system, especially as it relates to the well-being of victims and offender behaviour. Most recently, he has focused research efforts on suicide among incarcerated offenders. His research also aims to incorporate perspectives on gender, aging, and race/ethnicity. He previously held a research position at the Justice Institute of British Columbia.

### Dr. Davut Akca

Davut Akca, B.A. Criminal Justice, M.A. Criminology, Ph.D. Forensic Psychology, joined the Centre as a Research Officer in 2019. Dr. Akca's research interests fall within the domains of investigative interviewing, risk terrains of criminal events and crime mapping, radicalization, Islamophobia, hate crimes, and criminal network analysis. Before his graduate studies, he served as a ranked police officer and crime analyst in the Anti-Organized Crimes Department of the Turkish National Police for five years.

Thank you to our outgoing Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Ashmini Kerodal who lent her extensive expertise to numerous Centre projects 2018-2020



Heather Heavin, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, College of Law  
Faculty Member of the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies and Executive Committee Member (2016 – 2020)

## Research Highlight

### Legal Needs Assessment for Saskatchewan

Heavin, Lowenberger, Jewell, Stoliker

The **Legal Needs Assessment for Saskatchewan** is a collaboration between the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies (Jewell/Stoliker, CFBSJS), the Centre for Research, Evaluation, and Action Towards Equal Justice (Lowenberger, CREATE Justice) at the College of Law (Heavin), and the Law Society of Saskatchewan and aims to increase access to justice for Saskatchewan people by identifying legal needs and gaps in legal information and support, specifically in the family and civil law areas. The project has the potential for important law reform and service delivery impact for Saskatchewan residents, and is financially supported by the Law Society of Saskatchewan and the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan.

It will be undertaken in two phases. The first phase involves identifying existing data sources that may currently demonstrate or identify access to justice gaps and unmet needs. The second phase involves a survey of current near-to-legal and social service providers, as well as practicing lawyers in Saskatchewan. The scan and analysis of existing data sources that may identify unmet legal needs will look to both legal and non-legal disciplines. This step is essential as it may identify existing sources of data that can help inform data-driven policy change and inform the development of appropriate survey instruments for the second phase of the project. The second phase of the project entails surveying both lawyers and near-to-legal and social service providers. Through surveying near-to-legal and social services agencies working with vulnerable population in the province, the researchers hope to identify unmet legal needs that are facing their clients. A survey of all lawyers in the province will also provide a good source of information particularly as lawyers are working in communities throughout Saskatchewan and can provide specific information about unmet needs in certain practice areas. The Law Society of Saskatchewan, as a partner in the research, is providing critical support in distributing this survey to its members. This step is also significant because lawyers in rural Saskatchewan or the north may not always have a voice in law reform and the gaps in legal service provision may differ from what pertains to the city or urban settings.

The assessment will address a deficit in justice data in Saskatchewan. It will contribute to coordinated efforts across the country to undertake impactful data collection, highlighting met and unmet legal needs. This is significant because data deficit impedes the advancement and measurement of solutions to address the access to justice (A2J) crisis. The relevant recent national survey had a minimal representation from Saskatchewan – 3.1 % (Canadian Forum on Civil Justice, 2018). The research is building off other legal needs surveys, nationally and internationally, and it is guided by the [OECD guidelines](#) (released in 2018) on legal needs surveys.

The survey hopes to find information that will contribute to solutions to meeting the access to justice (A2J) crisis, especially within Saskatchewan. By surveying the relevant stakeholders working in communities throughout the province, views about what constitutes the met and unmet legal needs of people will be ascertained and solutions proposed. Reaching this end would be a significant milestone primarily because access to justice is essential. People should have access to information and services in a way that is not cost-prohibitive.

#### The findings will be used by:

**Law Society of Saskatchewan** – as a critical partner in this research, the Law Society of Saskatchewan has a mandate to regulate in the public interest, and in fulfilling that mandate, is interested in how unmet legal needs may be met by both lawyers and other near-to-legal services providers. The ability to pilot new services or supports through lawyers or non-lawyers is important to all Law societies across Canada.

(cont. next page)



# CREATE Justice

Centre for Research, Evaluation,  
and Action Towards Equal Justice

Access to Legal Services - Dispute Resolution - Systemic Justice

**Civil Society** – The findings from this survey will be shared with the Saskatchewan Access to Justice Network and help its member organizations for future planning. For example, not-for profit and *pro bono* service providers may utilise the result of this project to supplement their current programs or create new programs and services to meet the needs of our province.

**Government** – the Saskatchewan government and Ministry of Justice has a strong commitment to access to justice initiatives including technology-driven innovations such as justice information portals and providing better dispute resolution opportunities, particularly online dispute resolution opportunities for people. Accordingly, this project will help inform existing and new projects that could be undertaken by both the Ministry of Justice and by the not-for-profit sectors and other professionals that may not be lawyers but want to provide limited or specialized scope services for people. The services may include increasing scope for near-to-legal service providers or different training opportunities for individuals to provide certain limited types of legal information or legal services at a lower cost.

**Community and Community groups** – the findings will be shared with communities and lawyers surveyed and those in the system who can make the changes (i.e., the Access to Justice Network of Saskatchewan, comprised of key justice leaders) to create the desired impact. It is anticipated that the survey will uncover differences in the unmet legal needs between urban and rural Saskatchewan, and lawyers will have the opportunity to suggest ways their clients can be better helped. Service providers will have a chance to identify what they are doing to meet legal needs and where the gaps are in meeting those needs. This project demonstrates the benefits and potential for future partnerships between the Forensic Centre and CREATE Justice at the College of Law.

## About:

**Heather Heavin** is an Associate Professor and Associate Dean Research and Graduate Studies, College of Law, University of Saskatchewan.

**Brea Lowenberger** is the Access to Justice Coordinator for the Province of Saskatchewan and Director of CREATE Justice.

**Lisa Jewell** is the Research Associate for the Centre for Forensic Behavioral Science.

**Bryce Stoliker** is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies

Highlight prepared by **Mohammed Abdulai**, PhD Student in the Department of Sociology, University of Saskatchewan



Brea Lowenberger, Director,

[CREATE Justice](#)



Lisa Jewell, Research Associate,  
[CFBSJS](#)



Bryce Stoliker, Postdoctoral Fellow,  
[CFBSJS](#)

Congratulations to Dr.  
Vivian Ramsden  
RN, BSN, MS, PhD,  
MCFP (Hon.)

2020 Family  
Medicine Researcher  
of the Year

Dr. Ramsden is a faculty member of the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies and Professor & Director, Research Division in the Department of Academic Family Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

## Upcoming Events

Rescheduled from June 2020 – more details to come



### Prison Reform

- @ CAEFS [Oversight of Segregation in Prisons not Operative: The Abolition of the Practice of Segregation is Necessary and Urgent](#)
- @JHSocietySask reacting to [Saskatoon jail to get \\$120M remand centre expansion](#)
- @JohnHoward\_Can reacting to [Convicted al-Qaeda supporter arrested for 2<sup>nd</sup> time since release from prison](#)

### Prisons & COVID-19

- @JohHoward\_Can sharing [Trend of decreasing Sask jail inmate population during pandemic reverses](#)
- @JohnHoward\_Can sharing/reacting to [The Federal Response to COVID-19: Interim Observations](#)
- @JohnHoward\_Can sharing [Governments have failed to protect the incarcerated during pandemic](#)

### Mental Health, Prisons, and COVID-19

- @JohHoward\_Can sharing [Judge recommends offender serve sentence at psychiatric prison: critical of the lack of mental-health services available in prisons](#)
- @JGKoufos sharing [Need for mental health treatment as part of effective re-entry](#)

### Policing the Pandemic

- @alexmccllelland sharing [We Can't Police Our Way Out of the Pandemic](#)
- @Blue\_LineMag sharing [Increasing number of COVID-19 threats officers face while responding to calls](#)
- @alexmccllelland sharing [Policing the Pandemic Project](#)
- @CCLeicsPolice sharing [Provisional figures show widespread compliance with public health regulations](#)
- @alexlusco sharing [interactive map, database, and dataverse on Policing the Pandemic](#)
- @LeadersUnlocked sharing [Policing the Pandemic: Exploring Young People's Experiences and Recommendations](#)

### Criminal Justice System & COVID-19

- @fairtrials sharing [COVID-19 measures' impact on criminal justice systems \(by map\)](#)

### Criminal Investigations

- @SDrizin sharing [Police interrogation guidelines in England led to fairer trials and fewer false confessions](#)
- @MUN\_PsychLawLab sharing [Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Phased Interview Model](#)
- @davutakca84 sharing [Using self-administered interview protocol in missing persons investigations in Canada](#)

### Criminal Trends

- @homicide\_canada sharing [Canadian Provincial Homicide Rates, 2019 vs Annualized 2020 \(so far\)](#)
- @CBCSaskatoon reporting on [Crime drops in downtown Saskatoon, but calls remain for more policing of 'public nuisance' activity](#)
- @ctvsaskatoon reporting on [SK has highest percentage of people who disregard COVID-19 precautions: survey](#)

Topics from  
the Field



See all of the  
Forensic  
Centre's  
Research  
Projects

[HERE](#)

Currently working remotely  
but normally we can be  
found at:

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