

NEWSLETTER



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Centre for Forensic
Behavioural Science
and Justice Studies

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20th Symposium on Violence & Aggression May 26 - 28, 2024



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of
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The Violence & Aggression Symposium is a conference held biennially since 1986 that brings together academics (faculty and staff), government (federal, provincial and municipal) and community representatives, including Indigenous and other community groups/agencies, to enhance knowledge and build partnerships and collaborations aimed at understanding and addressing critical issues related to violent crime and aggressive behaviour. The 20th offering of the Symposium will be held on campus from May 26 to 28, 2024. The Violence & Aggression Symposium Planning Committee is planning this exclusively in-person event after the pandemic and expecting around 200 participants.

This event is organized mainly from the funds raised from our research partners, including, the Correctional Service of Canada, Research and Implementation Branch of the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety and the founding colleges of the Centre including the College of Law, the College of Nursing, the College of Medicine, and the College of Arts & Science.



Keynote Speaker May 27, 2024

More than a Voyeur: Engagement with Indigenous Peoples in Street Lifestyles - Dr. Robert Henry, University of Saskatchewan

(Photo: Facebook, Department of Indigenous Studies, University of Saskatchewan)

Dr. Robert Henry will be delivering a keynote session at the 20th Violence & Aggression Symposium. Dr. Henry is the Canada Research Chair Tier II- Indigenous Justice and Wellbeing, an Associate Professor, Department of Indigenous Studies, University of Saskatchewan, the Executive Director and Principal Investigator, nātawihowin and mamawiikikayaahk Research Networks (SK-NEIHR), and the Co-Lead of National Coordinating Centre for NEIHR Networks. Dr. Henry, who is from Prince Albert, is Métis and a citizen of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. His research focuses primarily on the experiences of Indigenous peoples engaged in street lifestyles, where he uses a survivance lens to challenge pathologized understandings of their experiences. Much of his research consists of using an Indigenous research framework focused on relational accountability through arts-based research methods. Working with Indigenous ex-gang members and collecting life narratives using visual research methods, he examines how their notions of identity are impacted with their involvement within multiple social systems. Through this work he has published two manuscripts with Indigenous gang and ex-gang members – *Brighter Days Ahead* (2013) and *Indigenous Women and Street Gangs: Survivance Narratives* (2021), and co-edited four other books on Indigenous health, settler colonialism, and Indigenous sociology.

Engagement with Indigenous Peoples engaged in street lifestyles has often been conducted on and not with the participants. As a result, research has pathologized their experiences relating their actions to that of deviance or lack of social order. This keynote presentation focuses on Dr. Henry's work with Indigenous Peoples who are and have been engaged in Indigenous street gangs and lifestyles. Using a survivance lens, this presentation looks to reframe how we have come to understand Indigenous experiences and engagement with street lifestyles, highlighting the role that colonization and settler colonialism continue to have on Indigenous experiences on the Prairies.



2024 VIOLENCE & AGGRESSION SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

Monday, May 27, 2024			Tuesday, May 28, 2024		
8:30 am - Plenary Session	Dr. Robert Henry, University of Saskatchewan	More than a Voyeur: Engagement with Indigenous Peoples in Street Lifestyles	8:30 am - Plenary Session	Dr. Christine Sarteschi, Chatham University	Interactions with Conspiracy Theorists and Resulting Real-World Violence
10:30 am - Concurrent Session	Stan Tu'Inukuafe, STR8 UP 10'000 Little Steps to Healing, Inc.	The Journey to Becoming an Indigenous Gang Member	10:30 am - Concurrent Session	Detective Constable Kevin Adrian	Current Trends, Structure, and Violence Within Saskatoon Street Gangs
	Crystal Giesbrecht, University of Regina	Intimate Partner Violence: Current Evidence from Research and Future Directions.		Detective Constable Derrick Harvey, Guns & Gangs Unit, Saskatoon Police Service	Overvalued Beliefs and Conspiracy Theories
	Dr. Colleen Dell, University of Saskatchewan			Pawsitive Connections: Exploring the Role of Animals in High-Risk Policing and Human Health and Wellbeing	
1:30 pm - Concurrent Session	Dr. Roberta Sinclair, Carleton University/RCMP	'New-Age' Gangs	Dr. Gary Chaimowitz, McMaster University	Responding to Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence in Rural Municipalities Across the Prairies	
	Dr. Cathy Prowse, University of Calgary and Mount Royal University		Dr. Masha Kardashevskaya, University of Manitoba		
	Sgt. Greg Smith, NCO i/c Saskatchewan Trafficking Response Team (STRT)		Human Trafficking In Canada		
3:30 pm - Plenary Session	Dr. Jack Rozdilsky, York University	Living in the Shadow of Mass Shooting: Facing the Complexity of Community Recovery	1:30 pm - Concurrent Session	Joeline Magill, Hope Restored Canada	Human Trafficking in the Prairies
	Dr. Manuela Valle-Castro, University of Saskatchewan	Human Trafficking, Related Forms of Violence, and Implications for Policy and Practice	Yvonne Raymer, Saskatoon Fire Department	Working with Unhoused Persons in Saskatoon	
5:30 Banquet with Speaker	Dr. Elizabeth Bates, University of Cumbria	First Nations Policing and Public Safety	Dr. N. Zoe Hilton, University of Toronto/ Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care	Men as IPV Victims	
	Matthew Mirasty, First Nations and Indigenous Policing, Government of Saskatchewan		Dr. N. Zoe Hilton, University of Toronto/ Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care	Domestic Violence Risk assessment Risk Management: The Importance of Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships	



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS (Poster Session)



Call for abstracts for the in-person poster competition of the 20th Biennial Violence & Aggression Symposium (monetary prize for "best student poster")

In your submission please include:

- Title, Authors and affiliation(s)/contact information
- Abstract (300 words)
- Keywords

SUB-THEMES

- Gangs
- Human Trafficking
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Post Covid Trends in Violence
- AND/OR the overarching theme of Current Trends in Violence

REGISTRATION FEES

Early Bird Fees - until April 15, 2024

Registration	\$530
Student	\$225

Regular Conference Fees - after April 15, 2024

Registration	\$585
Student	\$250

SUBMISSION Submit your poster session abstract as a PDF to forensic.centre@usask.ca

IMPORTANT DATES

NOW - 15TH APRIL, 2024 Early bird registration	15 TH APRIL, 2024 Abstract submission deadline	1ST MAY 2024 Acceptance notification	15TH APRIL, 2024 - 1ST MAY 2024 Regular registration	27TH MAY 2024 Poster Session
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In collaboration with:

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 20TH BIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM ON VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION @ USASK, MAY 26-28, 2024!

REGISTER NOW!

Early Bird pricing until April 15, 2024

[Violence & Aggression 2024 Website](#)

Planning Committee

- Dr. Lisa Jewell (Co-Chair), Research Associate, CFBSJS
- Dr. Mansfield Mela (Co-Chair), Director, CFBSJS
- Lilani Samarakoon, Coordinator, CFBSJS
- Dr. Renata Roma, Post-Doctoral Fellow, CFBSJS
- Delphine Gossner, Director of Program Integrity and Evaluation, Offender Services, Government of Saskatchewan
- Dr. Leslie Anne Keown, Executive Director, Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment (CIPSRT)
- Dr. Dena Derkzen, Senior Research Manager, Research Branch, Correctional Service Canada - National Headquarters
- Professor Cindy Peternelj-Taylor, Professor Emeritus, College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan
- Dr. John Weekes, Director, Knowledge Mobilization, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction
- Sgt. Nick Smyth, Manager, Regina Violent Crime Analysis Sections, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Dr. Natalie H. Polvi, Registered Doctoral Psychologist, Chief Psychologist, Regional Psychiatric Centre, Correctional Service Canada, Prairie Region
- Dr. Kingsley Nwachukwu, Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford

CFBSJS Website Revamping

CFBSJS hired a few marketing assistants to work on increasing impact for the Centre. With the help of the students hired as the marketing assistants, the Centre is working on revamping the website. The main focus of the revamping work is to reorganize the CFBSJS website to highlight the key research and findings of the Centre in order to attract more visitors to the website. Our hope is that this will result in more public education and awareness on the evaluative and research-based contributions of CFBSJS. In particular, we aim to highlight research that directly benefit the programs and services of policing, corrections, justice, and non-governmental criminal justice agencies to better enhance their ability to reduce victimization by addressing the health and wellbeing of justice-involved persons.



(Photo by Lilani Samarakoon- Recording a video at One Button Studio at U of S)

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



(Photo - Dr. Mansfield Mela, Director of CFBSJS)

I am thrilled to announce our upcoming event: the first in-person Violence and Aggression Symposium, scheduled for May 26-28, 2024, since the pandemic. This symposium promises to be a pivotal gathering, focusing on evidence-based strategies at the frontline of addressing violence.

In today's rapidly evolving landscape, characterized by online echo chambers and heightened societal tensions, interpersonal conflicts have become increasingly prevalent. Our symposium aims to address this pressing issue by exploring various topics related to the changing patterns of violence.

We are honored to welcome esteemed colleagues from the University of Saskatchewan and worldwide who will lead discussions and provide valuable insights into the complexities of violence. Through their expertise, we hope to gain a deeper understanding of the current levels of violence and to formulate sustainable solutions for the future.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the diligent members of the planning committee, whose tireless efforts have made this symposium possible.

We invite you to join us in Saskatoon for what promises to be an engaging and collaborative event, fostering dialogue and collaboration among researchers, frontline practitioners, stakeholders, and decision-makers.

At the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies, we remain committed to our mission of uncovering solutions within the criminal justice system. In our second year of strategic planning, we are proud to report measurable progress toward our goals. By leveraging strategic commitments and interdisciplinary collaborations, we are making strides in our research endeavors, particularly in projects involving Indigenous communities.

Our dedicated staff have initiated numerous pilot and long-standing projects aimed at supporting individuals across the criminal justice system and reducing victimization.

We are also excited to announce plans for revamping our website to enhance user experience and accessibility. We have expanded our role by developing a pool of active learners alongside our Living Skies Postdoctoral Fellows.

Your feedback is invaluable to us as we continue to grow and evolve. We eagerly anticipate your participation in our symposium and invite you to engage with us as we work towards creating safer, more just communities.

Mansfield Mela
Director

Research & Implementation Branch Student Networking Event, Oct 24, 2023



CFBSJS hosted a Student Networking Event in partnership with the Research and Implementation Branch (RIB) of the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety on Tuesday Oct 24, 2023 from 2-4 pm at the University (ARTS 102). This Networking event was planned to provide an opportunity for the students involved with Center to connect with RIB and learn more about their work.



Representing the Research and Implementation Branch (RIB) of the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, Scott Harron (Executive Director), Andrew Betker (Business and Implementation Specialist), Dr. Ashley Hewitt (Data Scientist) and Michelle Schwartz (Director, Implementation) joined this event.

CFBSJS staff Lilani Samarakoon, Dr. Bryce Stoliker, and Dr. Renata and students who recently showed interest in becoming involved in Centre research joined the event. Andrew Betker moderated the event. Scott Harron and Dr. Ashley Hewitt delivered a presentation followed by a Q&A panel discussion and casual networking at the end of the event. This conversation helped to strengthen the partnership between RIB and CFBSJS.

(Photos by Lilani Samarakoon -Members of RIB and CFBSJS, USask students)

NEW CFBSJS MEMBERSHIPS



Dr. Michelle Stewart
Associate Professor*,
Adjunct Professor**, Director, Regina Improvisation
Studies (Department of Gender, Religion and Critical
Studies*/Department of Justice Studies**- U of R



Hillary Peterson
Sessional Lecturer
College of Law
University of Saskatchewan



Dr. Lola Ayotunde
Assistant Professor
College of Law
University of Saskatchewan