

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



(Photo by Lilani Samarakoon -Dr. Baljit Singh speaking at V&A welcome reception)

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The 20th Biennial Violence & Aggression Symposium was successfully held on campus from May 26 to 28, 2024. Around 230 participants participated this year's symposium. The 20th offering focused on "Current Trends in Violence" and feature 4 plenary speakers, 12 concurrent sessions and one banquet session, involving 17 local, national and international presenters. Presenters shared their knowledge and experience on an array of topics including Gangs, Human Trafficking, Intimate Partner Violence and Post-Covid Trends in Violence.

In this offering Elder Roland Duquette from Mistawasis Nehiyawak First Nation participated throughout the symposium and provided an Indigenous perspective. The students from the Music Department played a jazz combo during the V&A welcome reception. On the second day at the banquet, Long Walkers Drum Group, an Indigenous dancing group entertained the Symposium participants with a traditional dance and drum performance.

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(Photo by Matt Smith - Long Walkers)

(Photo by Dr. Renata Roma - USask Jazz band)



**Keynote Speaker
May 28, 2024**

Domestic violence risk assessment risk management: The importance of researcher practitioner partnership - Dr. N. Zoe Hilton, University of Toronto, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care.

(Photo by Lilani Samarakoon -Dr. Zoe Hilton speaking at V&A)



Dr. Dr. N. Zoe Hilton delivered a keynote session at the 20th Violence & Aggression Symposium on May 28, 2024. Dr. N. Zoe Hilton is Professor of Psychiatry, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, and Senior Research Scientist, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, Penetanguishene, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Hilton conducts research on intimate partner violence risk assessment in partnership with policing organizations in Canada. She was the lead of the research team that created the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) and authored the book, "Domestic Violence Risk Assessment: Tools for Effective Prediction and Management", 2nd Edition (APA Books, 2021).

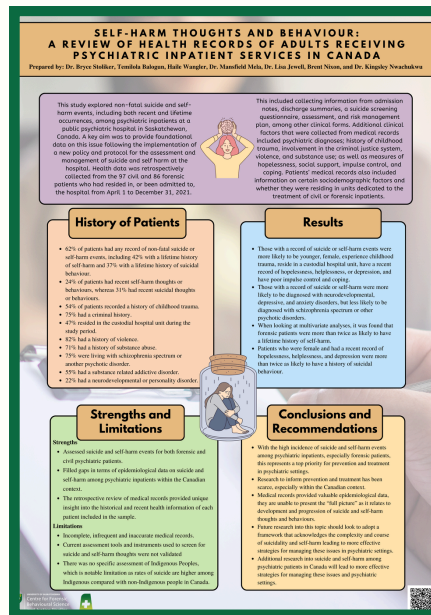
The topic of risk assessment is an area of research prioritized by the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies that was highlighted in the V&A Symposium in a presentation of great interest to V&A attendees. The presentation was titled "Domestic Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management: The Importance of Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships." In this talk, Dr. N. Zoe Hilton covered various approaches to domestic (intimate partner) risk assessment, with a particular emphasis on the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA), and explored the connections between risk assessment, risk management, and treatment through the principles of risk, need, and responsivity. It highlighted recent research on factors contributing to domestic violence recidivism, such as coercive control, and pointed out existing gaps in the evidence supporting the criminal justice system's handling of coercive control. The presenter emphasized the importance of partnerships between researchers and practitioners in addressing these issues and shared details about current collaborative efforts with policing organizations across Canada.

This presentation was relevant because it addressed critical issues in the field of domestic violence, specifically focusing on improving risk assessment and management strategies. By highlighting the ODARA and the principles of risk, need, and responsivity, the presentation offered valuable insights into how risk assessments can inform more effective interventions and treatment plans. Additionally, it brought attention to recent research on factors like coercive control, which are crucial to understanding and preventing domestic violence recidivism. Identifying knowledge gaps in the criminal justice system's response to coercive control underscored the need for further research and better practices. Finally, the emphasis on researcher-practitioner partnerships illustrated a practical approach to overcoming these challenges, demonstrating the importance of collaboration in advancing the field and enhancing public safety.

New Take Towards Marketing

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 knowledge translation activities. Currently, marketing assistants are working on infographics and research videos highlighting the key research and findings of the Centre. These will be posted on the Centre's website. Our hope is that this will result in more public education and awareness on the evaluative and research-based contributions of the CFBSJS. In particular, we aim to highlight research that directly benefits the programs and services of policing, corrections, justice, and non-governmental criminal justice agencies.

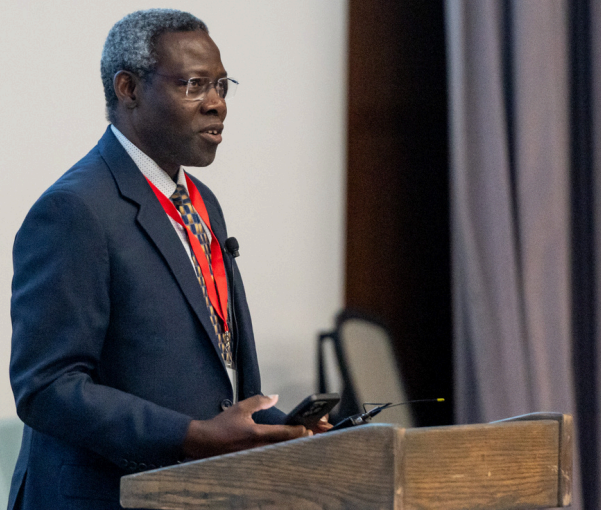
Please visit our website: <https://cfbsjs.usask.ca/>



(Pictures of infographics that are in the development stage)



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



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

I am pleased to welcome you to the new academic year while reporting on activities from our last quarter.

The Biennial Violence and Aggression Symposium, held in person for the first time since the pandemic, was a resounding success, meeting our goals and fostering important discussions. The forensic Centre prides itself as the gateway to forensic related information.

The Centre through multiple knowledge translation outlets, serves as the interface to engage frontline staff, students, policymakers, researchers, clinicians and partners to learn and promote efforts to reduce victimization.

This time, and in accordance with our strategic plan to work with Indigenous communities, our Elder participated in all the sessions during the Violence and Aggression Symposium to provide an Indigenous perspective.

This quarter also saw a renewal of our Executive Committee, and I express my deep appreciation to Professors Phil Woods and Ray Spiteri for their dedicated service. I am grateful for their dedication and service to our university academy. I want to take the opportunity to welcome Professor Kent-Wilkinson back to the Executive Committee as she serves alongside Profs Vivian Ramsden and Heather Heavin. The internal collaborators of the four colleges are pivotal to our expansion as well as the engagement of students, graduates and faculty members.

It is my pleasure to reintroduce our newsletter. Please provide us with your feedback and I invite you to engage with us to support collaboration with the Centre.

Mansfield Mela
Director

Collaborative Effort to Enhance Community Safety Through Training Manual Development

We are thrilled to announce the completion of a significant project that exemplifies the power of collaboration between the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies and Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety. This project combined expertise from various fields, including forensic science, community engagement, and law enforcement, to develop a comprehensive training manual for Community Consultative Groups (CCGs).

What are Community Consultative Groups?

Community Consultative Groups (CCGs) play a critical role in fostering communication and cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the First Nation communities they serve. These groups consist of community members, local leaders, and law enforcement officials who come together to discuss concerns, share insights, and develop strategies to address local community safety issues. CCGs are vital in First Nation communities, as they help ensure that policing is responsive to the unique needs and perspectives of the community.

The Collaboration Process

The journey to create this manual was truly a team effort. Over several months, our multidisciplinary team met with partners from the Ministry's First Nations and Indigenous Policing branch weekly to discuss and shape the project's direction. These meetings, which were a mix of online and in-person sessions, allowed us to pool our collective knowledge and experience to make informed decisions about the content and structure of the manual.

The primary goal was clear: to create a training manual that would not only inform but also empower Community Consultative Groups in First Nation communities. Throughout our discussions, we focused on ensuring that the manual was practical, user-friendly, and culturally sensitive.



(Photos by Lilani Samarakoon - Members of Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety and CFBSJS)

The Training Manual: A Dynamic and Interactive Resource

The result of our collaborative efforts is a dynamic and interactive manual that covers all the essential aspects of implementing and developing CCGs in First Nation communities. The manual is divided into several sections, each addressing a key topic necessary for the effective functioning of CCGs.

What sets this manual apart is its interactive nature. It includes role-play scenarios that allow trainees to practice real-life situations, a work plan template to guide the development of their initiatives, and reflective questions at the end of each section to reinforce learning and encourage critical thinking.

Impact and Future Use

This manual is more than just a document; it is a vital resource that will be instrumental in training approximately 20 communities over the next year with an average of 7 people per training session.



As described by professionals involved with the delivery of the training:

"It is a renewed opportunity for engagement with First Nations by the RCMP, Public Safety Canada and the province by providing a structured forum for discussion on public safety related matters. This work will require effort and with that effort, relationships will be created, strengthened and all partners will benefit."

By equipping CCG members with the knowledge and tools they need, we are helping build stronger, more resilient communities that are better prepared to work alongside law enforcement in addressing local challenges.

As we move forward, we are confident that this manual will make a lasting impact, empowering communities and enhancing public safety across the region. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in this project. Your dedication and expertise have made this achievement possible, and we look forward to seeing the positive outcomes of this work in the communities it will serve.

Publications & papers

Stoliker, B. E., Jewell, L. M., Lowenberger, B., & Heavin, H. (in press). Reducing the “justice gap” through data for systemic change: Using multiple perspective legal needs surveys to improve person-centered justice. *Canadian Journal of Law and Society*.

Stoliker, B. E., Balogun, T., Wangler, H., Mela, M., Jewell, L. M., Nixon, B., & Nwachukwu, K. (2024). Medical chart review to explore suicidal and self-harm thoughts and behavior among psychiatric inpatients. *OMEGA – Journal of Death and Dying*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00302228241272653>

Stoliker, B. E., Jewell, L. M., Thevenot, M-L., Ryan, C., Nordholt, N., & Mela, M. (2024). Evaluation of an Indigenous traditional healer and medicine program in a Canadian correctional facility [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies, University of Saskatchewan.

Koole, D., Stoliker, B. E., & Jewell, L. M. (2024). Homonegativity and beliefs about sexual orientation hate crimes: Undergraduate student perceptions at a Canadian university [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies, University of Saskatchewan.

Iloabachie, M. C., Stoliker, B. E., Jewell, L. M., & Kent-Wilkinson, A. (2024). Screening for cognitive impairment and dementia among older people in custody: A systematic review [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies, University of Saskatchewan.

CFBSJS Students

Danielle Koole completed her BA & Sc Health Studies Honours Thesis project with the CFBSJS under the supervision of Dr. Lisa Jewell, and Dr. Bryce Stoliker. Her thesis title was Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes: Exploring Undergraduate Student Attitudes and Perceptions at the University of Saskatchewan.

Rachel Hafner completed her Criminology & Addictions Practicum with the CFBSJS under the supervision of Dr. Bryce Stoliker. Her Project Title was Predictability of Screening Tools for the Assessment and Diagnosis of Dementia among Older Persons in Custody.

Lingzi Jin completed her Master of Public Health Practicum with the CFBSJS under the supervision of Dr. Bryce Stoliker and Dr. Lisa Jewell. Her Project Title was Supporting Adherence to Medication in Correctional Settings: A Systematic Literature Review.

Chinwendu Ikwuegbu completed her Master of Public Health Practicum with the CFBSJS under the supervision of Dr. Bryce Stoliker and Dr. Lisa Jewell. Her Project Title was Data Review and Program Evaluation of the Saskatoon Fire Department's Inadequate Housing Initiative.

Marketing Assistants: Arisha Jamil Ahmad, (Master of Public Administration student) and Lucie Blackburn (fourth-year psychology student) worked with Centre Coordinator, Lilani Samarakoon and Post-Doctoral Researcher Dr. Christie Tetreault on the Centre's marketing activities.

THANKS FOR SERVING ON THE CFBSJS EXECUTIVE BOARD



Dr. Phil Woods

Dr. Woods is a Professor at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Nursing. Dr. Woods' research and scholarly program over the years has focused on forensic mental health nursing. Dr. Woods has served the CFBSJS Executive board from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024. We are very grateful for the invaluable guidance he provided to CFBSJS during his 3-year term serving as an Executive Committee Member.



Dr. Ray Spiteri

Dr. Ray is a faculty member in the Computer Science in the College of Art & Science at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Ray's research areas include numerical analysis, scientific computing and software, high-performance computing, optimization and industrial mathematics and problem solving. Dr. Spiteri has served the CFBSJS Executive Committee from Jan 1, 2020, to June 30, 2024. We were so fortunate to have him served the CFBSJS Executive Committee for an extended period of time.