

# Newsletter



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
 Centre for Forensic  
 Behavioural Science  
 and Justice Studies  
 CFBSJS.USASK.CA



(Photo by Lilani Samarakoon - Dr. Lisa Jewell is introducing Julia Topinka and Andrew Betker of the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety)

## Interactive Workshop on “Selling Your Research”

The Centre hosted a workshop led by Andrew Betker and Julia Topinka from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, focusing on creating impactful presentations on November 27, 2024 on campus. Attendees explored strategies like icebreakers, Q&A sessions, storytelling, role-playing, using visuals such as charts and graphs, videos and creating content from audience. Presenters emphasized tailoring content to audience needs, selecting key data, and addressing the “why,” “what,” and “who” when delivering presentations.

Practical tips included practicing out loud, making eye contact and being prepared for the anticipated questions from the audience. Through interactive demonstrations, participants gained valuable tools to present their research and engage diverse audiences effectively and confidently.



(Photo by Lilani Samarakoon - “Selling Your Research” Workshop attendees and presenters).

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## Dr. Lisa Jewell

Dr. Lisa Jewell is a Research Associate at the Centre and has been with us for almost 12 years. She has approximately 20 years of experience with research and program evaluation and is a credentialed evaluator through the Canadian Evaluation Society. Dr. Jewell has led over 20 projects since joining the Centre in 2013.

*(Photo by Matt Smith - Dr. Lisa Jewell addressing Violence and Aggression symposium in May 2024).*

In a recent interview with our Centre, Dr. Jewell reflected on her journey at the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies, offering insights into her evolving role and contributions over the years.

Dr. Jewell joined the Centre in 2013, and her decision to apply for the position was far from coincidental. During graduate school, she took a course with Dr. Steve Wormith, the original director of the Forensic Centre. As she completed her studies and began working as a program evaluator elsewhere. She soon realized that academia was her true calling, and at the same time, the Centre was also hiring. It felt like the perfect opportunity. She joined as a Research Officer and quickly found it to be an excellent fit, especially given her growing awareness that programs offered within corrections, policing, and justice are fundamentally social programs. It was a good fit for her interest areas in applied research, having a background in applied social research.

Since then, Dr. Jewell has become an integral part of the team, contributing to high-quality research aimed at improving lives. The main aspect of her role was completing research projects from beginning to the end. Over time, her role has evolved into a more defined leadership position, liaising with stakeholders, entering into formal contracts, supervising research staff and helping them navigate the research process, guide students through various projects, and supervise research assistants, internships, and practicum placements.

Dr. Jewell thinks that one thing that helped her stay committed to the work was that every project was interesting, and they were in a new area of corrections, policing or community justice. In her own words “There’s always something new to learn and I get very interested in learning these new areas, and I love to be a researcher, I love to collect data and to explore research questions and so this is kind of like self-motivating as well. I really enjoy the research process and so kind of the two together has led to this sustained involvement in the work that we’re doing in the Centre”.

In addition to projects Dr. Jewell has been part of the Biennial Violence and Aggression Symposium Planning Committee, and she was the Co-chair for the planning committee for past few years. She mentioned “That’s been such a good experience to get to know people better from the people who sit on the planning committee, getting to know the speakers who we invite. These have been all really great connections that I wouldn’t have made if I wasn’t at the Centre and in my role at the Centre. So that’s also something kind of worth noting as a perk of my job, I guess is getting to meet all these people. And there’s a lot of passionate people”



She has been able to keep work-life balance by having boundaries and being flexible at the same time, accepting what comes her way and trying to get it done and adopting into a fast-paced environment. Her advice for anyone interested in this field is to develop strong research skills. She emphasizes the importance of mastering various methods and methodologies and building a broad repertoire of tools to adapt to the ever-changing nature of the work.

*We thank Dr. Jewell for her dedication and contribution to Criminal Justice research in last 11 years.*

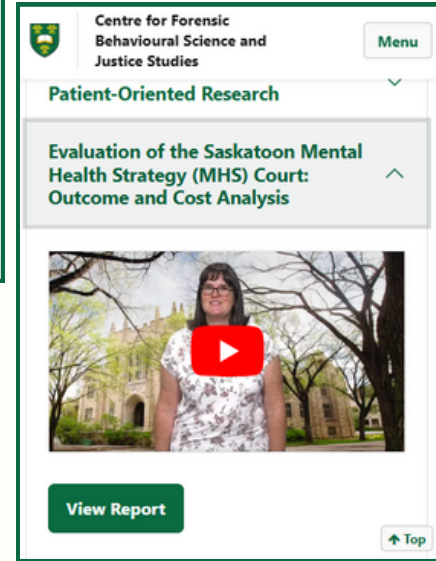
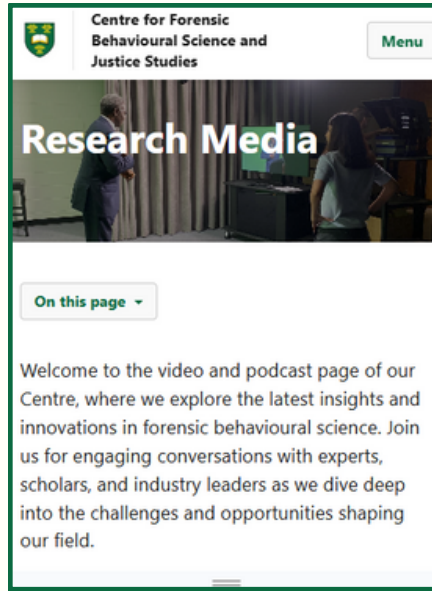
*(Photo by Lilani Samarakoon - Lisa Jewell, Prof. Vivian Ramsden and Elder Roland Duquette attending Violence and Aggression Symposium in May 2024).*

# Research Media Page

At CFBSJS, we've been expanding our outreach by creating engaging video content to highlight the impactful research being conducted at the Centre. As part of our marketing strategy, this initiative aims to promote our work and enhance the Centre's visibility beyond traditional written content.

We are excited to announce the launch of the *Research Media* page on our website. This dedicated section features a collection of videos and podcasts, showcasing the expertise of our staff and providing insights into the Centre's diverse research projects. By diversifying our content, we hope to connect with a broader audience and share the stories behind our research in a more dynamic and accessible way.

Please visit our [Research Media Page](https://cfbsjs.usask.ca/research/research-media.php):  
<https://cfbsjs.usask.ca/research/research-media.php>



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



(Photo by Research Profile and Impact office - Dr. Mansfield Mela, Director of CFBSJS)

As the year 2024 comes to an end, we look back with gratitude on the productive work that the Forensic Centre has completed. Our team (Drs. Jewell, Stoliker, Tetreault and Roma with our coordinator, Lilani) deserve a good thank you and much deserved break. We have welcomed new members of the Advisory Board, as well as the Executive Committee. We are currently anticipating the renewal of our two memoranda of understanding with our long-term partners. These are the Correctional Services of Canada and the Research Implementation Branch. Kim Audette is a well-known collaborator and now Executive Director of Research and Implementation Branch. The team was excited to be selected as a top awardee of the Public Safety Canada grant of close to 3/4 of a million dollars. The work of Dr. Tetreault, Dr. Ralston, and the team has provided a great source of completing items on the strategic plan. I use this opportunity to wish you all happy holidays, merry Christmas, happy Hanukkah, and a happy new year.

Mansfield Mela  
Director

# Infographic

We've been expanding our outreach by creating infographics to highlight the impactful research being conducted at the Centre. The following is one of such infographics we have created to provide a condense version of the research summary.

Please visit our Reports Page:

<https://cfbsjs.usask.ca/research/reports.php>

## INTEGRATING TRADITIONAL HEALING PRACTICES INTO HEALTH SERVICES DELIVERY



### Overview of Program

This culturally-based health program was integrated into the health service delivery model at OOHL, and is intended to advance the healing of federally incarcerated Indigenous women by promoting physical, mental, and spiritual wellness and enhancing connection to culture.

### Methods

Two data collection phases were employed to gather quantitative and qualitative information from program participants (n = 21) and collaborators (n = 17) with respect to their perceptions surrounding the implementation, delivery, and outcomes of the program.

### Results

#### Residents' Perspectives

**Strengths** - The program includes traditional medicine, ceremonies and cultural teachings, mental and spiritual guidance and tools that helped improve residents' overall well-being. Residents enjoyed learning about traditional medicine and the integration of both Western and traditional medicine led to openness of seeking both types of support.  
**Challenges** - The Traditional Healing Team was not on-site as much as needed.

#### Wellness and Correctional Outcomes:

- The Healers provided support and guidance that led to a better outlook on life with healthier relationships with oneself and others.
- The program guided residents on a path toward better living in the community, reconnection with culture and family members, and encouragement to seek out traditional healing supports in the community.

#### Impacts on Physical, Mental, and Spiritual Health:

- Residents rated their physical, mental, and spiritual health as slightly above average and important to their overall quality of life.
- Energy work, mental and spiritual support and guidance, traditional medicines and cultural teachings made residents feel comfortable and supported while ultimately improving physical, mental, and spiritual health.



#### Program Collaborators' Perspectives

**Strengths** - The program serves as a unique resource bridging the gap between Western and traditional medicine that provides residents with opportunities for healing as well as cultural and social supports.  
**Challenges** - A smaller than expected Traditional Healing Team led to increased tasks for each member that distracted them from their primary responsibilities as Healers.

#### Impact:

- Cultural activities and healing practices offered through the program were beneficial to the residents' physical, mental, and spiritual health.
- Traditional medicine helped the residents manage physical illness and led to improved energy levels, healthier thoughts and peace, and better control of emotions and situation management.
- The program helped residents reconnect to cultural traditions and spirituality and gain a stronger connection to oneself, culture and the Creator.

**Recommendations** - Expand the program to establish it as a long-term traditional medicine health services option at other facilities.



### Conclusions



# WELCOMING NEW CFBSJS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



### Dr. Arlene Kent-Wilkinson

Dr. Arlene Kent-Wilkinson is a Professor at College of Nursing at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Kent-Wilkinson’s clinical experience and research interests include areas of forensic psychiatric/ mental health, Aboriginal health, corrections, addictions, and global collaborations. We are excited to have Dr. Kent-Wilkinson and look forward to her expertise contributing to the Centre.



### Dr. Timothy Kang

Dr. Timothy Kang is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan. His research areas include Life Course Criminology, Youth Crime and Justice, Narrative Criminology, Research Methodology, and Program/Policy Evaluation. We are very happy to welcome him to the CFBSJS Executive Committee.



# Have a Joyous Holidays!

Thank you for another year of collaborations and support from our partners. We are looking forward to a greater year ahead. Wishing you a restful holiday season!

*(Photos by Lilani Samarakoon - Festival of Trees, Western Development Museum, Centre's Socializing Event on Nov 29, 2024)*