



**YORK UNIVERSITY'S LILLIAN WRIGHT
MATERNAL-CHILD INSTITUTE:**

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES

Organized by Echo Chair in Women's Mental Health Research
in partnership with the Faculty of Health.

Friday, September 23rd, 2011
9:00am to 4:30pm
York University (Keele Campus)
Room 280N York Lanes



Faculty of Health



Welcome

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the inaugural York University Lillian Wright Maternal Child Institute. The focus of this year's learning institute is on methodological approaches in maternal child health research. The one-day institute offers a platform to researchers in maternal child health to share their work with others interested in this globally important area of inquiry. Participants in the institute include students from different disciplines, researchers, community members, and health and social services professionals.

In this first year of the learning institute, we welcome five guest speakers, all of whom have expertise in the area of maternal child health research. Our keynote speaker is Christine Kowal, who is a former Lillian Wright Scholarship recipient and currently a Junior Science Officer with the Ontario Health Study. Our other invited speakers are Dr. Nasim Haque (Wellesley Institute), Professor Christine Kurtz Landy (York University), Professor Olive-Wahoush (McMaster University), and Professor Beryl Pilkington (York University).

We wish to acknowledge the financial support of the Lillian Wright Foundation, Echo Chair in Women's Mental Health Research office, and Faculty of Health. We are also grateful to following York University faculty, staff, and students for their generous time and help: Associate Dean Lesley Beagrie, Wajma Soroor, Sheila Jennings, Brett Thompson, Alexis Buettgen, Farah Islam, and Pattie Gagliardi-Ursua.

Finally, we thank you for joining us today as we gather together to exchange research knowledge with each other in maternal child health.

Harvey Skinner
Dean, Faculty of Health

Nazilla Khanlou
Academic Lead, Lillian Wright Maternal-
Child Health Scholars Program

Programme

| Time | Item | Speaker |
|--------------|---|---|
| 9:00 - 9:30 | Registration Morning refreshments | |
| 9:30 - 9:45 | Welcome and Introductions | Dr. Nazilla Khanlou |
| 9:45 - 11:15 | <p>Panel 1</p> <p><i>Photovoice as an arts based participatory research approach</i></p> <p><i>Mixed methods designs in maternal-infant health research</i></p> | <p>Dr. Nasim Haque</p> <p>Dr. Christine Kurtz Landy</p> |
| 11:15–12:00 | Breakout 1 | |
| 12:00 - 1:00 | Lunch with Dean Skinner | |
| 1:00 - 2:30 | <p>Panel 2</p> <p><i>The challenges of conducting research with refugee families</i></p> <p><i>Issues in international research collaboration in maternal-child health</i></p> | <p>Dr. Olive Wahoush</p> <p>Dr. Beryl Pilkington</p> |
| 2:30 – 3:15 | Breakout 2 | |
| 3:15 - 3:45 | Overview of student led discussions Afternoon refreshments | Participant volunteers |
| 3:45 - 4:15 | <p>Keynote Presentation</p> <p><i>Ontario Health Study</i></p> | Christine Kowal |
| 4:15 - 4:30 | Wrap up | Dr. Lesley Beagrie |

Speakers



Nasim Haque, MD, DrPh

Dr. Nasim Haque is Director of Community Health at the Wellesley Institute, an independent non-profit research and policy institute based in Toronto. She holds a joint appointment as an Assistant Professor at the Lawrence School of Bloomberg, University of Toronto. She is a physician and holds a doctoral degree in social epidemiology from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. She has extensive experience in community-based research applying both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Her research interest areas are in the social determinants of health, urban health, health disparities, and immigrant health.



Christine Kowal, M.Sc, CCRP, Ontario Health Study Junior Science Officer

Christine Kowal completed a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Biological Sciences and French from the University of Toronto and an M.Sc. in Epidemiology from the School of Kinesiology and Health Science at York University. Christine has earned certification as a Clinical Research Professional (SoCRA) and previously worked as a Research Coordinator for an international multicentre randomized controlled trial comparing planned vaginal birth to planned caesarean section for twin pregnancies. Christine was awarded York University's Lillian Wright Maternal-Child Health Graduate Scholarship (2009) as well as the Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2011). Christine currently works as a Junior Science Officer for the Ontario Health Study (ontariohealthstudy.ca).



Photo not available

Christine Kurtz Landy, RN, PhD

Dr. Christine Kurtz Landy, RN, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing at York University and Assistant Professor (part-time) in the School of Nursing at McMaster. She did her PhD at McMaster and a CHSRF postdoctorate at McMaster University and the University of Ottawa. Her professional work before entering academia included high risk obstetric intra-partum care and public health program management in family and reproductive health. Her research focuses on women's health, health equity, and health and social services for women during the pregnancy, birth and the first two years after childbirth.

Speakers



Beryl Pilkington, RN, PhD

Dr. Beryl Pilkington entered nursing with a diploma and worked as a staff nurse in Labour and Delivery for 10 years, subsequently obtaining a BScN from the University of Western Ontario and an MScN from the University of Toronto. She has worked as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in Maternal-Newborn and Women's Health and has worked in Nigeria in maternal health. She holds a PhD (Nursing) from Loyola University Chicago.

Dr. Pilkington has held the position of Nurse Researcher/Special Projects at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto. She was the first Graduate Program Director for the MScN program, launched in 2005 at York University. Currently, she is Associate Director, Research and Graduate Education.

Completed research has focused on quality of life and lived experiences with populations. Currently, she is investigating the meaning of resilience for residents in a priority neighbourhood in Toronto. She is also planning research in the area of maternal-child health in Ghana. Her expertise is with qualitative descriptive and phenomenological-hermeneutic methodologies.



E. Olive Wahoush, RN, PhD

Dr. Olive Wahoush is an Assistant Professor in the school of nursing at McMaster University and a recent graduate from Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. She holds a PhD in Health Policy Management & Evaluation (Outcomes measurement & evaluation stream). She has extensive experience in international settings in nursing practice and leadership, education and research. Dr Wahoush's most recent international experiences include the opening of a new 160 bed pediatric cancer centre in Cairo Egypt and coordinating a collaborative Oncology Nursing program with the University of West Indies in Trinidad. Her primary interests for education and research are in the social determinants of health, vulnerable populations, equity, health systems and capacity development in communities.

Panel 1

Photovoice as an Arts-Based Participatory Research Approach **Nasim Haque, MD, DrPH**

“What is the experience of being a single immigrant mother?” “What are health circumstances of mothers with learning difficulties?” “How do youth from low income neighbourhoods perceive health?” All these questions can be effectively answered through Photovoice using the words, stories and photos of study participants, resulting in rich descriptive data. Photovoice is a community based participatory research method that uses a grassroots approach and photography to bring about social action. It enables participants to share their lived experiences by taking photographs and explaining what the photographs mean to them. It is often used in community-based participatory research projects because of its ability to 1) empower those who are powerless and 2) promote social change (Wang, 2005) in areas such as health (Carlson, Engebretson & Chamberlain, 2006), women’s issues (Frohmann, 2005), and economically and ethnically diverse groups of people (Radley, Hodgetts & Cullen, 2005). The outputs from Photovoice projects are particularly effective at inspiring policy makers to affect change.

This session will provide participants with an introductory understanding of the research methodology and will highlight the ethical issues (privacy, ownership and power) inherent to this participatory approach. Examples will be drawn from Wellesley Institute’s Photovoice work in St. James Town.

Discussion Questions

1. Given that there are many research methodologies, in what situations would Photovoice be more useful compared to other research methods?
2. What are some of the challenges you may encounter using the Photovoice methodology?

Mixed Methods Designs in Maternal-Infant Health Research **Christine Kurtz Landy, RN, PhD**

Developing our knowledge and understanding about issues related to childbirth and maternal-infant health starts with the understanding that pregnancy and childbirth is essentially a natural phenomenon, which are biologically and physiologically determined. Our beliefs about pregnancy and childbirth, and how women and their families are cared for during and following pregnancy and childbirth is not a natural phenomenon, but is socially constructed (Davies-Floyd & Sargent, 1997; Dundes, 2003). As such, issues in maternal-infant health are complex. Mixed methods research designs allow us to comprehensively examine many of these complex issues. This presentation will provide an overview of mixed methods research designs and the types of research questions that can best be addressed with these approaches. In addition some of the challenges encountered in ‘doing’ mixed methods research will be discussed. Several examples of mixed methods research in maternal-infant health will be presented.

Discussion Questions

1. What kind of a research team would you want to get together to pursue mixed methods research in maternal-infant health?
2. Within the Canadian context, what kinds of maternal-infant health issues could effectively be addressed using mixed method designs?

Panel 2

The Challenges of Conducting Research with Refugee Families **Olive Wahoush, RN, PhD**

This presentation includes ideas and experiences primarily from my own research efforts during my doctoral research and other studies. My area of interest is primarily in child health within immigrant families, particularly refugee families and from a social determinants perspective. Most research reporting on immigrant health fails to identify the subgroups or classes of immigrant within this population and very little research speaks about preschool children. Annually about 250-300,000 newcomers arrive in Canada and approximately 11-13% are refugees. Refugees are people who have been forced to migrate for their safety and survival. Although this number seems small, Canada is a major receiving country of refugees and their successful settlement and integration is important to all levels of government. Refugees have specific needs and challenges related to their migration history and their status as refugees. Understanding the perspectives and experience of refugee families is important to ensure that appropriate and effective supports are in place to enable their successful re-settlement in Canada. Ideas and experiences about recruiting refugee families into research studies will be presented and results shared. This will include cross sectional and longitudinal studies. Challenges of inclusivity, word choices, establishing connections and relationships with families and service providers will be featured. The importance of context will be included in terms of relevance to promoting interpretation of findings and in identifying the target audiences for sharing results and for knowledge transfer.

Discussion questions:

1. What are the skills and attributes needed to establish strong relationships to facilitate research with vulnerable and sometimes 'hard to reach' populations?
2. Is it important that findings of such research be relevant to other groups or settings and if so how might this be achieved?

Issues in International Research Collaboration in Maternal-Child Health **Beryl Pilkington, RN, PhD**

This presentation concerns an international research collaboration in maternal-child health that is still under development. My primary partner in this collaboration is Dr. Prudence Mwini-Nyaledzigbor, a faculty member in the School of Nursing, University of Ghana, who recently earned a PhD in Nursing at the Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa. A nurse-midwife, her area of expertise is community health and the health of populations, with a speciality in maternal-child health. My Ghanaian colleague and I have had limited prior experience in international research collaborations. In this presentation, I will be sharing some of the challenges, emerging insights, and questions that have surfaced as we pursue our research plans. Perhaps the most important element of a research collaboration of any kind is establishing a viable partnership. Moreover, when the research collaboration involves partners from two countries with great disparity in the degree of development, equity and shared leadership within the collaboration are key principles to consider. A major challenge to our developing collaboration is to identify a researchable problem and define its scope. When the problems are multiple and the needs for knowledge development are great, this is more difficult than it might seem. An important consideration is that the problem selected for research is a priority to the host country (Ghana) and supports government policies and health care sector priorities. Although maternal-child health is clearly a priority for Ghana as well as Canada and the international community, this is a broad area that needs to be narrowed down by a specific research question(s). Here, given that our main mode of communication is currently email, this is a difficult process. Finally, we are yet to obtain resources to support any proposed project; however, this would definitely help our collaboration to succeed.

Discussion Questions

1. How can research on maternal-child health in a developing country like Ghana contribute to its further development?
2. Given that there are numerous challenges in the area of maternal-child health in a country like Ghana, how would you go about identifying a researchable problem in collaboration with a partner in the university sector?

Organizing Committee

The members of the organizing committee would like to thank you for participating in the Lillian Wright Maternal-Child Institute. We hope that the day was meaningful and contributed to your knowledge of research methodologies in maternal-child health. We would like also thank our speakers, Faculty of Health staff as well as Graduate Assistants who made this gathering possible.

Thank you for joining us!



Dr. Nazilla Khanlou
Echo Chair in Women's
Mental Health Research



Sheila Jennings
Research Assistant



Wajma Soroor
Research Assistant

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SEPTEMBER 23, 2011

Organized by Echo Chair in
Women's Mental Health Research
in partnership with the Faculty of Health

York University (Keele Campus)
Room 280N York Lanes

4700 Keele St
Toronto, On.
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www.yorku.ca/nkhanlou