

CDHPiVP Project Update

Canadian Domestic Homicide
Prevention Initiative
with Vulnerable
Populations



Summer 2018
Volume 3, Issue 1



Student/Research Assistant / Co-investigator meeting June 18-19, 2018 in London, ON

The CDHPiVP students and research assistants met in June in London, ON with the co-investigators and management team to discuss progress of research, plan for third phase of research, and engage in Indigenous and Intercultural education training. Claudette Dumont-Smith provided context to domestic violence in Indigenous communities. Mike Manocchi of the London Cross Cultural Learners Centre offered strategies for conducting interviews with people of various cultures. The meeting also focused on the next stage of the project which involves interviews with survivors and proxies of intimate partner violence.

Jennifer Barkley and Benjamin Roebuck of Algonquin College discussed their study “Resilience and Victims of Violence” which involved interviews with survivors of homicide, sexual violence and intimate partner violence. Jane Ursel presented her research study “The Healing Journey” providing insights on similarities and differences between it and the CDHPiVP project and highlighting some of the challenges of doing research with survivors of intimate partner violence. The meeting facilitated productive and engaging knowledge exchange between students, research assistants, and co-investigators. We received support and guidance throughout the meeting from Elder Myrna Kicknosway.

CDHPiVP Partnership Meeting November 1-2, 2018, Doubletree Hilton Hotel, London, ON

A Partnership meeting for all members of the CDHPiVP project including collaborators, partners, co-investigators, research assistants and students will take place November 1-2, 2018 at the Doubletree Hilton Hotel in London.

If you have not done so, please complete the survey (click on Qwerty code to access survey) regarding your availability to attend the meeting and provide any information you would like to share regarding initiatives



you are involved with or aware of about domestic violence risk assessment, risk management and safety planning.

Agenda items include:

- Project updates
- Information sharing among partnership members
- Major themes from DVDRCs across Canada
- Phase 3 research study

RESEARCH UPDATE

Database

Significant progress has been made in the development of the CDHPIVP database that houses public information on domestic violence-related homicides. Since the beginning of 2017, 549 domestic homicides have been identified that occurred between 2010 and 2015. News articles and court documents pertaining to each case were collected and coded by various research assistants nationwide. Because the focus is public documents at this stage, information is limited to that which was reported in media coverage or court documents (e.g. sentencing transcripts, etc.). As a result, some cases currently lack context or fail to specify the nature of the relationship between those involved. Due to this limitation, there are an additional 71 cases that may be a domestic homicide, but we cannot make a definitive determination either way without additional information but will monitor these cases. Based on the information coded from public documents, we were able to acquire knowledge on who was involved, what happened, when and where it occurred. Additionally, information was often available on situational characteristics, the criminal justice response, as well as *basic* agency contact and risk assessment information. Compared to what is reported, there is an abundance of missing information that is not reliably reported in public documents such as more personal demographic characteristics, detailed information regarding the relationship characteristics, previous agency contact (aside from police contact), and more nuanced risk assessment information. Since the first round of coding, we have identified an additional 143 domestic homicides that have occurred since 2015. We are in the process of collecting public documents in preparation for the second round of coding.

Key Informant interviews

More than 350 interviews have been conducted with service providers from across Canada. Most of the interviews have been transcribed and are currently being proofread for accuracy. The data from interviews will be analyzed to address a number of questions and topics specific to the vulnerable population hubs, but also to other overarching topics.



Police policies on withholding names of murder-suicide victims - media attention

There has been increased media attention in the past two years regarding policies of some police agencies to withhold names of murder-suicide victims, particularly in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The CDHPIVP project is particularly concerned and interested in this issue as it prevents us from identifying domestic homicide victims. Recently, members of the CDHPIVP team have weighed in on this in the media:

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/police-urged-to-end-secrecy-about-murder-suicides-490869071.html>



Myrna Dawson named President of Canadian Sociological Association for 2018

CDHPI Co-Director and University of Guelph Sociology Professor Myrna Dawson took up the position of President for the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA) in July at the CSA Annual General Meeting. The meeting was held on the same day that the CSA hosted the Opening Ceremony for the International Sociological Association XIX World Congress of Sociology in Toronto July 15-21. Dawson served as President-Elect during the past year and will serve as President until 2019. In her role, she chaired the Opening Ceremony of the Congress (see picture) which saw about 6,000 delegates attend from 120 countries. The CSA is a professional association that promotes

research, publication and teaching in sociology in Canada. Its membership comes mainly from sociology departments in Canadian universities, but there is a notable group from other social science departments, community colleges, from a wide range of non-academic settings (government, NGO, and private sector) and from abroad. In 2016, Dawson established and currently co-chairs the CSA's Research Cluster in Violence & Society. In addition, she organized and chaired the inaugural meeting of an emerging Thematic Group in Violence & Society in the International Sociological Association which occurred during the Congress.



Research examining definitions of domestic violence, homicide presented at World Congress of Sociology

Danielle Sutton, Jordan Fairbairn and Myrna Dawson presented a paper *the Implications of Defining Domestic Violence for Vulnerable Populations* at Congress. The presentation focused on various definitions of domestic violence and the implications for the four high-risk populations that are being studied by the CDHPIVP: Indigenous, Rural, Remote and Northern, Immigrants and Refugees, and Children Exposed to Domestic Violence.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFILE: ABIR AL JAMAL



Abir Al Jamal, MSW, RSW, earned her degree from the University of Western Ontario in 2015. She spent over twenty years in Lebanon as a social worker with

national and international social services working with internally displaced, refugees, and vulnerable populations. She is a service provider and research coordinator at the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration (London, ON). She is a research assistant for the CDHPIVP, a research coordinator (London site) for “Aging Well: Social network and support for older immigrants in Ontario”. She has been part of Emerging Voices: How Syrian Newcomers and other Key Stakeholders Perceive Canada’s Three Sponsorship Programs for Refugee (Re) settlement; as well as a study on the impact of pre-and-post migration on Arab refugee families settling in Canada. She is interested in research with a focus on domestic violence, risk assessments, and social issues that affect newcomers’ communities and impede their integration. She believes in evidence-based best practices and, more specifically, culturally informed risk assessment and culturally integrative responses to address gaps in services for newcomers. In her leisure time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, listening to classical music and operas, and swimming.

CDHPIVP members at Shelters of the Future conference



Members of the CDHPIVP partnership presented a workshop at the **Shelters of the Future Conference** in Ottawa, June 13-15, 2018: Safety Planning with Vulnerable Populations.

Photo: Marcie Campbell, Sarah Yercich, Krystle Maki (Women’s Shelters Canada), Josie Nepinak (Awo Taan Healing Lodge), Danielle Bader, Deborah Doherty (Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick).



Collaborator Profile

Dr. Mohammed Baobaid earned his doctoral degree from the Institute of Psychology at the University of Erlangen Nuremberg in Germany. He is the founder and Executive Director of the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration (MRCSSI) in Canada and adjunct professor at Western University. For 30 years he has conducted research on families, children and youth at risk of violence and developed culturally appropriate responses in Yemen and Canada. Based on the outcome of his research, a culturally integrative model of family violence responses has been developed and implemented. His work over the years has been based on successful collaboration between service providers, the community and governmental agencies and has been proven to reduce the risk of family violence among collectivist communities including Arab and Muslim families in Canada.

Dr. Baobaid has received many awards including the first Arab Ambassador's Award, intended to honour Canadians of Arab descent with outstanding achievements in their respective fields; the 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal; and the 2012 Attorney General's Victim Services Award of Distinction. Prior to coming to Canada, Dr. Baobaid was the head of the department of Psychology at the University of Sana'a, Yemen.

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS UPDATE

Dr. Mary Hampton, RESOLVE, University of Regina, has been a co-investigator with the project since its inception. She recently announced her upcoming retirement in November 2018. We appreciate Mary's support in the early stages of developing the SSHRC grant and all her contributions to the field over her long career.

Anita Olsen Harper is representing National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence and replacing Carole Brazeau who has left the organization.

The **Provincial Office of Domestic Violence** in British Columbia has closed and its representative **Clark Russell** has retired.

Deidre Bainbridge has replaced **Dr. William Lucas** as the new Chair of the Ontario Domestic Violence Death Review Committee.

Welcome to the following new co-investigators:

Jordan Fairbairn
Sepali Guruge
Julie Kaye
Pertice Moffitt
Kendra Nixon
Cathy Richardson
Katreena Scott

New Students and Research Assistants:

Mary Aspinall
Misha Dhillon
Janie Dolan Cake
Carolyn Fraser
Kristina Giacobbe
Valérie Grand'Maison
Renee Hoffart
Camille Pare-Roy
Corinne Qureshi
Dylan Reynolds
Jackie Salas
Gursh Sandhu
Busra Yalcinoz

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

CDHPVP exhibits research to date at World Congress of Sociology

Research team members for the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations (CDHPVP) helped promote the SSHRC-funded research at the 19th International Sociological Association World Congress of Sociology Conference in Toronto. Team members Anna Johnson, Danielle Bader, Marcie Campbell, Abir Al Jamal, and Cathy Holtmann networked with conference delegates from a range of countries including Australia, South Africa, Italy, India, Nigeria, Bangkok, Chile, Granada, România, United Kingdom and United States.



Photo: Danielle Bader and Cathy Holtmann with exhibit at Congress

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE BRIEFS



The Domestic Homicide Briefs highlight information gleaned through the literature review and consultation with partners and collaborators. The series feature topics related to the CDHPVP initiative including:

1. Domestic Violence Death Review Committees: “Speaking for the Dead to Protect the Living”
2. Domestic Violence Risk Assessment: Informing Safety Planning & Risk Management
3. Children and Domestic Homicide: Understanding the Risks
4. Domestic violence in immigrant and refugee populations: Culturally-informed Risk Assessment Strategies

All Briefs are available on the Website: www.cdhipi.ca/knowledge-products#DHB

Coming soon: Briefs on Rural, Remote and Northern populations; Indigenous populations and Safety Planning

CDHPIVP Knowledge Mobilization

We are now on Twitter!



@cdhpi

Please follow and share.

Website: www.cdhpi.ca

For internal communication: Basecamp

Please advise us of any changes in your contact information: astraat2@uwo.ca



The Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations is a 5- year Partnership grant (2015-2020). This research is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

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Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

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