

Summer 2021 Issue

LAMARSH CENTRE FOR CHILD & YOUTH RESEARCH

July 14, 2021

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

**DR. JONATHAN WEISS,
LAMARSH CENTRE DIRECTOR**

Welcome to the LaMarsh Centre for Child and Youth Research. I began this directorship during the pandemic, and at a time when our Centre was building a plan for its next five years of activity. It should go without saying that this is an exceptional circumstance, and that the landscape of child, youth, and family wellness has shifted dramatically in a short period of time. The individual, familial, and societal challenges that we face require sustained collaboration, dialogue, understanding and compassion. In reflecting on the LaMarsh Centre's strengths, I see tremendous opportunity within this context. [Read more...](#)

The LaMarsh Centre for Child and Youth Research is a collaborative group of faculty and students that supports community-engaged interdisciplinary research in health, education, relationships and development of infants, children, adolescents, emerging adults and families everywhere.



WELCOME

DR. MAVOY BERTRAM



Dr. Mavoy Bertram RN(EC), MN-NP(Paediatrics) is a faculty member in the School of Nursing at York University. Professor Bertram's clinical background is in

paediatric nursing. She possesses strong expertise in paediatric critical care. As a nurse practitioner she has provided direct care to children and youth diagnosed with sleep-related breathing disorders and narcolepsy. Her research interest lies in childhood trauma and its impacts on development and overall functioning. She has also been involved in research to support students with disabilities.

DR. HEATHER PRIME



Dr. Heather Prime's research program uses a family-based approach to understanding and supporting socio-emotional and cognitive development in

young children, with a focus on family interactions and relationships. She is interested in risk and resiliency processes that occur involving social disadvantage, parent and family wellbeing, and children's adjustment. Current activities include: (1) The development and evaluation of family-

UPCOMING EVENTS

The aim of the LaMarsh Centre for Child and Youth Research is to conduct leading edge research and mobilize knowledge in ways that improve wellbeing and resilience for children, youth and emerging adults and their families. Visit our website to learn more about the research that is done at LaMarsh.

Look out for our Fall Newsletter for LaMarsh's Fall events!

YORK EVENTS

See York events [here!](#)



based early intervention programs; (2) Knowledge synthesis activities used to examine pre-existing literature on early family-based interventions; (3) The development of family-based assessment tools; and (4) Secondary analysis of pre-existing datasets in order to better understand processes of change in early childhood development.

JEFFERY HANKEY



Jeffery Hankey's role as a postdoctoral visitor with the Bohr Lab involves the evaluation and knowledge mobilization phase of the CIHR-funded project, Making I-

SPARX Fly in Nunavut. This youth-led, community-based initiative leverages a uniquely tailored psychoeducational video game designed to enhance the resilience of Inuit youth and help them develop positive coping skills rooted in CBT and emotion regulation. His involvement with I-SPARX builds on his resilience-focused, community-based graduate research in Educational Psychology with street-involved and homeless Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ youth in Alberta using an intersectional, ecological approach. Broadly, his research interests brings diverse biopsychosocial, cultural, and philosophical perspectives and critical methodologies to bear on understanding and enhancing educational, developmental, and health outcomes for children, youth, and emerging adults.

HOT OF THE PRESS!

Books

Cognitive Sophistication and the Development of Judgment and Decision-Making: 1st edition by Maggie Toplak

Articles

Dr. Heather Prime had a paper published in *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, titled **The COVID-19 Family Stressor Scale: Validation and Measurement Invariance in Female and Male Caregivers**. An exciting collaboration with the CRAMPED study. [Read more...](#)

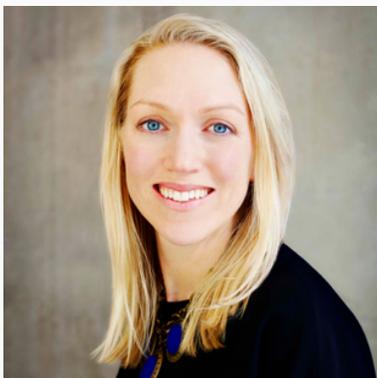
Dr. Nazilla Khanlou: Year 2020: How will it impact identities of children and youth over time? *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*, 1-3 (2021). [Read more...](#)

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS



[Sara Flicker](#), a professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, is the principal investigator on the project “Transnational

Perspectives on COVID-19’s Impact on Youth Sexuality, Risk and Relationships.” The project, which involves an international research team that includes Faculty of Education Assistant Professor Jen Gilbert, received \$249,038.00 in funding. [Read more...](#)



[Lyndsay Hayhurst](#) is an Assistant Professor in the School of Kinesiology and Health Science at York University in Toronto, Canada. York Research Chair

in Sport, Gender and Development and Digital Participatory Research (starting July 1, 2021). [Read more...](#)

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Insight Grant. “Wheels of Change? Exploring 'Bicycles for Development' for Women and Girls in the (Post-)Pandemic Contexts of Canada, Uganda and Nicaragua.” (2021-2026). Role: Principal Investigator, (Co-Is: Brian Wilson, University of British Columbia; Francine

Victoria Larocca, Kelly P. Arbour-Nicitopoulos, Jennifer R. Tomasone , Amy E. Latimer-Cheung and **Dr.Rebecca L. Bassett-Gunter**: Developing and Disseminating Physical Activity Messages Targeting Parents: A Systematic Scoping Review. [Read more...](#)

Tracy Fabri Memory, processing of emotional stimuli, and volume of limbic structures in pediatric-onset multiple sclerosis. [Read more...](#)

Dr. Christine Till: A benchmark dose analysis for maternal pregnancy urine-fluoride and IQ in children. Risk Analysis, in press. [Read more..](#)

Media

Professor Nazilla Khanlou Interview: Supporting the mental health of racialized women at risk of gender-based violence. Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR): COVID-19 and Mental Health Initiative (2 June 2021). [Read more...](#)

Darroch, Carleton University; Brad Millington, Brock University; Cathy van Ingen, Brock University). [Read more...](#)

E-Alliance Grant. “Exploring the Utility of Virtual Trauma-and Violence-Informed Sport for Development (TVISFD) Programs with Maple Leaf Sport and Entertainment’s LaunchPad in Moss Park, Toronto: A community-based participatory approach.” (2021-2023). **Role: Principal Investigator** (Co-Is: Francine Darroch, Carleton University; Marika Warner, MLSE LaunchPad). [Read more...](#)



[Rebecca Bassett-Gunter](#), School of Kinesiology & Health Science, Faculty of Health, is the recipient of the **President’s Emerging Research Leadership Award**

(PERLA) in Cluster 2: Social Sciences, Art & Design, Humanities, Business, Law and Education. The award illustrates her leadership in the field of research on the promotion of physical activity among children with disabilities. [Read more...](#)



[Dr. Debra Pepler](#), Department of Psychology, Faculty of Health, was selected for the **President’s Research Impact Award (PRIA)** for her innovative contributions to

psychology and mental health in the areas of bullying, aggression and violence,

Professor Nazilla Khanlou interviewed by CityNews: Canadians grieve after successive national tragedies. (9 June 2021). [Read more...](#)

Presentations

NASPSPA Virtual Conference
Disimino, K., Larocca, V., Arbour-Nicitopoulos, K. P., Tomasone, J., Latimer-Cheung, A. E., Bassett-Gunter, R. L. (2021). Implementing recommendations for the development and dissemination of physical activity messages targeting parents of children with disabilities. *Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology*, 43, S62. [Read more...](#)

Khanlou N, Vazquez LM, Connolly JA, Pashang S, Thumeka M, Epstein I & Ssawe A. (7 March 2021). Racialized women at risk of gender-based violence during COVID-19 pandemic: Equity informed mental health promotion. *Doing Anti-Racism Work and*

especially among marginalized children, youth and families. [Read more...](#)



[Dr. Heather Prime](#), amongst those recognized with the jointly funded the Mitacs-Banting Research Foundation Discovery Award. Dr. Prime is an assistant

professor in York University's Department of Psychology, for her study evaluating an innovative program to help families recover from the pandemic, with the aim of reducing child mental health problems by strengthening relationships and reducing conflicts in families. [Read more...](#)



[Dr. Christine Till](#) awarded the CIHR Project Grant "Impact of early life fluoride exposure on neurodevelopmental outcomes among children in the New Hampshire Birth

Cohort" recommended for funding in the Spring 2021 competition.



Tracy Fabri was awarded an abstract award for The European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS) conference

Addressing Intergenerational Trauma (Virtual Conference), Association for Women in Psychology, United States. [Read more...](#)

Dr. Heather Prime was a participant on a panel on Seeding Resilience in our Future Generations at the Science Writers and Communicators of Canada Convention. [Read more...](#)

Dr. Christine Till gave a talk for a symposium presentation titled "The Effects of Water Fluoridation on Neurodevelopment and Other Health Outcomes" at the 2021 Birth Defects Research and Prevention conference.

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR TRAINEE NETWORK?

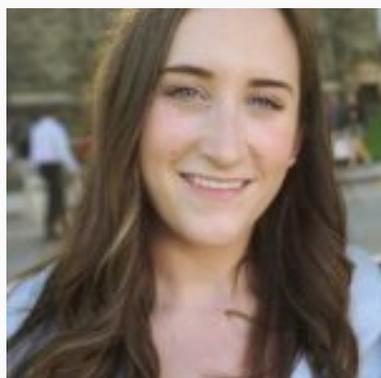
The LaMarsh Trainee Network is a group of undergrad, graduate students and post-doctoral

registration. Tracy works within an established interdisciplinary team of world-renowned researchers (Canadian Pediatric Demyelinating Disease Network) under the immediate supervision of Dr. Christine Till. Their research answers questions regarding the impact of insult to the developing brain in high-risk medical populations.



Rivka Green was selected as a Science Communication Network (SCN) fellow for 2021-22. Rivka is a third year doctoral student, studying clinical-

developmental neuropsychology in Dr. Christine Till's lab at York University. Her general research interest is on exposures to environmental neurotoxins in early-life and childhood neurodevelopmental outcomes.



Meaghan Hall was awarded the James C. Bradford Memorial Poster Award (i.e., best poster) at the 2021 Birth Defects Research and Prevention

conference. Meaghan is a Master's student in Dr. Christine Till's lab, her research is centered on children's environmental health, with a particular focus on the health risks associated with prenatal and postnatal exposure to environmental neurotoxins.

fellows studying in the area of child and youth research from a variety of disciplines at York University. The Trainee Network aim is to help students establish meaningful academic relationships with researchers and in their field of interest, share research with peers and give talks at symposium events for learning and development purposes. The Network is also here to broaden interest and awareness of child and youth research, encourage multi-disciplinary research, and provide means for skill development.

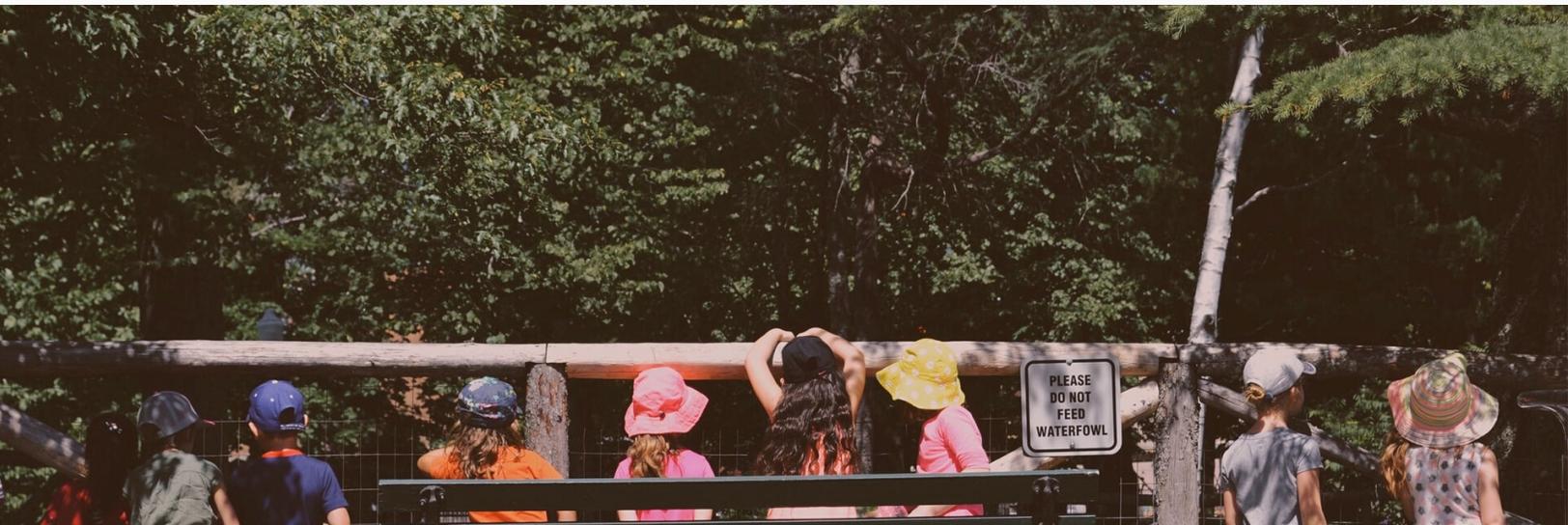
To get involved [email](#) LaMarsh Centre for Child & Youth Research.



Katerina Disimino received the CSA Group Graduate Scholarship - the purpose of the CSA Group Graduate Scholarship is to support graduate students in the pursuit of knowledge generation related to standards. She also received the Ontario Graduate Scholarship award.



Gillian Shoychet, recipient of the Ontario Graduate Scholarship for her MA1 year in the Clinical-Developmental Program and the recipient of Dr. Eric Jackman Health Scholars Award funded by the LaMarsh Centre for Child and Youth Research, recently joined the Prime lab.



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