

# LaMarsh Centre for Child & Youth Research Newsletter

Summer 2023 Issue | July 2023



The LaMarsh Centre for Child & 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. The Centre conducts leading edge research and mobilizes knowledge in ways that improve wellbeing and resilience for children and youth.

Our newsletter aims to share some of this incredible work and provide updates to the LaMarsh Community.

[Visit our website](#) to learn more about the research that is done at LaMarsh.

# Director's Message

**Dr. Rebecca Bassett-Gunter, LaMarsh Centre Director**



Happy Summer! I truly hope that all of our hardworking LaMarsh members are taking some time to rest and recover during the summer months. The past academic year has been a time of growth and challenge at LaMarsh, and the slower pace of the summer brings an opportunity for reflection.

We have enjoyed several LaMarsh events together as a community this past year! Most recently, the Graduate Student Symposium was a wonderful opportunity to come together, exchange knowledge, and observe the power of our collaborations. Despite the underwhelming lunch, it was an awesome day! Dr. Jennifer Steele and Dr. Jeffrey Hankey shared their inspiring and impactful research. It was also inspiring to hear from our student colleagues who shared meaningful research. The feedback I received from attendees was motivating and served as a reminder of the importance of coming together! This fall will present LaMarsh members with several opportunities to come together and I will look forward to seeing you all there!

A few final notes: If you are writing grants this summer, please identify LaMarsh as your home research centre. This is important to ensure your work is highlighted in our annual report. You can also consider including research funds in your grant budget to come back to the Centre to support administration (which in turn can support your research team). If you have any questions about this matter please do not hesitate to reach out! Don't be shy!

You will have recently seen a call for applications for the Jackman scholars awards. The deadline for applications is July 31, 2023. Please see the AWARDS section of the LaMarsh website for more information.

Lastly, please take a few moments to review below for some of the incredible accomplishments of LaMarsh members over the past several months. It is quite impressive!

Have a wonderful rest of the summer and we will look forward to coming together in the fall.

Rebecca

## Recent Events

The following events were hosted through the Centre over the Spring term:

- **The LaMarsh Graduate Student Symposium** was held in person on **June 12, 2023**. The event included research presentations from the LaMarsh Research Awardees and keynote talks by Dr. Jennifer Steele and Dr. Jeffrey Hankey. The symposium provided an opportunity for trainees and faculty to network.

- York University hosted the **2023 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences**, in partnership with the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Congress is the largest academic gathering in Canada, and one of the largest in the world. The event ran from **May 27 to June 2, 2023**. York's Keele and Glendon campuses hosted over 8,000 scholars, graduate students and practitioners. PhD student and LaMarsh leader Julia Ferreira Gomes presented her research on Sport for Development: Considering a trauma- and violence-informed approach.

## Upcoming Events

**LaMarsh Fall Open House**

**Jackman Scholars' Learning Forum**

*Specific dates and times to come...*

## Member Profiles

We welcomed several new faculty to LaMarsh this spring. We look forward to engaging and learning with the following new members!

**Dr. Lisa H. E. Farley**

**Title:** Associate Professor, Faculty of Education

**York U Profile:** [visit Dr. Farley's York U profile](#)

**Email:** [LFarley@edu.yorku.ca](mailto:LFarley@edu.yorku.ca)



Dr. Farley's research considers how psychoanalysis can inform ongoing challenges of representing childhood, belonging, and relationality in educational and clinical contexts. Her scholarship critiques normative frames of development by highlighting the elusive qualities of emotional life and by situating conflict as a condition of being. Her recent research considers how teachers' memories of having once been children shape their contemporary understandings of childhood and examines the status of difficult knowledge in pedagogies with children.

## Dr. Mary E. Desrocher

**Title:** Associate Professor, Faculty of Health

**York U Profile:** [visit Dr. Desrocher's York U profile](#)

**Email:** [mdesroch@yorku.ca](mailto:mdesroch@yorku.ca)



Dr. Desrocher's training is in neuropsychological assessment and neurorehabilitation. Her current research explores autobiographical memory, executive functions, and social cognition, as well as mental health correlates of cognitive difficulties. Clinical populations of study include children and adolescents with stroke, early neurological injuries, epilepsy, and neurodevelopmental disorders, such as fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

## Articles, Hot Off The Press!

- Taylor, L.G., Vanderloo, L. M., Yates, J, Bassett-Gunter, R.L, Stanley, M, & Tucker, P. (2023). Physical Activity among Young Children with Disabilities: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Adapted Physical Activity Quarterly*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1123/apaq.2022-0100>.
- Philipp, D., Prime, H., & Darwiche (2023). An ultra-brief systemic therapy to address child mental health symptomatology. *Family Process*, 00:1–14. doi: 10.1111/famp.12875.
- Wilkinson, C. L., Pierce, L. J., Sideridis, G., Wade, M., & Nelson, C. A. (2023). Associations between EEG trajectories, family income, and cognitive abilities over the first two years of life. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*, 101260. doi: 10.1016/j.dcn.2023.101260.
- Harlow, M., & Fraser-Thomas, J. (2023). Describing early years sport: take-up, pathways, and engagement patterns amongst preschoolers in a major Canadian city. *Sport in Society*, 1-23. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/10.1080/17430437.2023.2234306>



## Recent Presentations

- Disimino, K., James, M. E., Voss, C., Bassett-Gunter, R. L., & Arbour-Nicitopoulos, K. P. (2023). Do parents' intentions translate into behaviours? Examining parental support behaviours and device-measured physical activity among children and youth with disabilities. *International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting*, Uppsala, SE.
- Prime, H. (June 2023). *Understanding the child through the lens of the family: A family systems approach to child development and mental health*. Family Psychology Section Speaker at CPA's 84<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and National Convention, Toronto, ON.
- Markwell, A., Demy, J., Koven, M., Racine, N., & Prime, H. (June, 2023). The impact of COVID-19 disruption on couples' relationships: A systematic review and meta-analysis. [Symposia Talk]. The Canadian Psychological Association's 84th Annual National Convention.
- Demy, J., Gonzalez, A., Jambon, M., Joshi, D., Prime, H (June, 2023). *Inside the family home: A multi-wave study examining bidirectional associations between interparental conflict, harsh parenting, and child emotional well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic*. [Symposium presentation]. 2023 Canadian Psychological Association Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

- Shoychet, G. (2023, June 23–25). Speaker and Discussant. In G. Shoychet (Chair), *For Better or for Worse: A Family Systems Approach to Understanding Family Functioning Amid the Pandemic* [Symposium Presentation – Family Psychology Section]. CPA's 84<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and National Convention, Toronto, ON.
- Bondi, B. C., Pepler, D. J. (2023, June 23-25). *Early childhood neurodevelopmental assessments: The importance of intervening early to maximize neurodevelopmental trajectories and well-being*. Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) 84th Annual National Convention, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- Bondi, B. C., Gold, A., Belza, C., So, S., Avitzur, Y., Wales, P. (2023, June 23-25). *Medical predictors of neuropsychological functioning in school-age children with intestinal failure*. Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) 84th Annual National Convention, Toronto, ON, Canada

## Awards & Achievements

**Congratulations to Rebecca Bassett-Gunter and Jonathan Weiss who are part of a team who received the following SSHRC Partnership grant:**

- (2023-2030). Canadian Disability Participation Project 2.0: Developing, implementing and evaluating quality sport, exercise and play experiences for Canadians with disabilities. *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada: Partnership Grant. \$1,432,050*

**Congratulations to Gillian Shoychet who successfully defended her Master's thesis** titled "Empirical support for a model of risk and resilience in children and families during COVID-19: A systematic review & narrative synthesis."

**Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Connolly and Dr. Jennine Rawana who received the Cooperators' grant:**

- The grant's inaugural initiative will scale up the community-based Milestones Program for youth transitioning from Child Protective Services to independent living. This project, created by foster parents at Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions (SMFC), an integrated child and family services agency, aims to provide the necessary supports youth need for a successful transition into adulthood. [Read more here.](#)

**Congratulations to Dr. Debra Pepler who received the following SSHRC grant to continue their work with Indigenous communities and the Canadian Red Cross:**

- (2023-2024) Walking the Prevention Pathway for Indigenous Communities' Journey of Change. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Role: Principal Investigator with Shelley Cardinal (Canadian Red Cross). **\$200,000**

**Congratulations to Manal Beydoun who presented the first phase of her doctoral research at the North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity Annual Conference in Toronto:**

- Manal’s project was entitled “exploring youth sport coaches’ definition of a coaching philosophy”; 89 experienced Canadian youth sport coaches offered their definition of a coaching philosophy, and explanations of their definitions, which led to the development of a conceptual model, while identifying the need for further exploration of this area, to assist coaches in guiding their program delivery. [Read Manal’s full abstract here.](#)



**Congratulations to Bianca Bondi, PhD Candidate, who received the [IODE War Memorial Scholarship](#) and for being named one of York University’s [Top 30 Under 30 Alumni](#)**

## Partner Stories

In an inspiring collaboration, **Dr. Belcastro, Dr. Moghaddaszadeh and Ms. Madu (PhD student)** from the School of Kinesiology and Health Science Paediatric Exercise Physiology Laboratory have forged a significant community partnership with St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club. Their dedication to promoting positive physical activity behaviours through implementing *KinKids* after-school and summer camp programs among children continues to make a profound impact in underserved neighborhoods within the GTA.

For over a decade, the *KinKids* program has been at the forefront of providing an ecological approach to physical activity participation focused primarily on building motor competence and promoting health in these communities. With the invaluable support of kinesiology undergraduate students, *KinKids* aims to examine the effects of self-chosen, self-paced, fun-play-based physical activity on various health and fitness parameters such as pediatric quality of life (QoL) perceived physical health, enjoyment, body composition, cardiovascular risk factors and cardiorespiratory fitness. Their latest endeavor supported by JumpStart, a Canadian Tire Charity, involves extending the benefits of a muscle health/fitness resistance training program on children’s movement/motor competency into the successful *KinKids* Guided Active Play (GAP) format.

Recognizing the significance of providing age-gender-culturally-based opportunities for children to be physically active, Dr. Belcastro, Dr. Moghaddaszadeh, and Ms. Madu’s efforts are driven by the understanding that physical activity plays a crucial role in childhood development. Through this community partnership with St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club, they strive to empower children in underserved areas, by promoting healthier lifestyle behaviours and fostering their overall health and well-being.

# Announcements

## Call for Applications

The 2023-2024 **Dr. Eric Jackman Health Scholars Award** is designed to support student research teams who will be funded to carry out community-engaged research alongside a LaMarsh Faculty Member and community partner. The award will be granted annually to two teams of Jackman Scholars, each comprised of one undergraduate and one graduate student. Applications are due **July 31, 2023**.

## Join the LaMarsh LinkedIn Group!

We have recently established a LinkedIn group for the LaMarsh Community. The goal of this group is to provide a platform for LaMarsh members to support one another.

You're invited to actively engage with this virtual community in ways that are most meaningful to you. For example, you can use the LinkedIn group to contribute to discussions, ask questions, share announcements, seek out mentors, schedule meetups, and network with fellow LaMarsh members.

We hope this platform will serve as a helpful tool to foster communication among our Community. This group will evolve based on your contributions and needs, and we welcome your suggestions to improve the service.

[Click here to join the LaMarsh LinkedIn group.](#)

## Follow Us On Social Media

Be sure to **follow** LaMarsh on social media to stay up-to-date with the latest news and events from the Centre. We also encourage you to **tag @LaMarshCentre** in your posts, so that we can re-share your work with our community!

**Instagram:** [@LaMarshCentre](#)

**Twitter:** [@LaMarshCentre](#)

**LinkedIn:** [LaMarsh Centre for Child & Youth Research at York University](#)

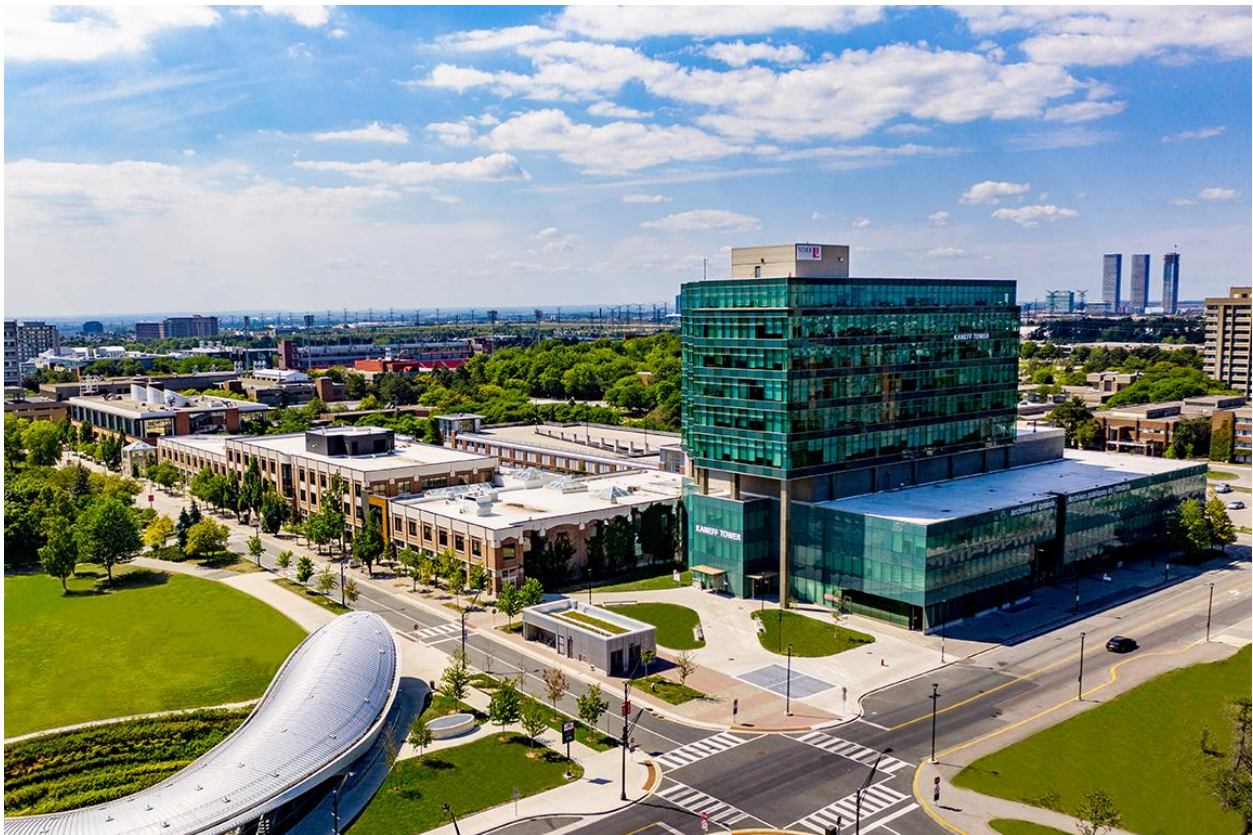


## Interested In Joining Our Trainee Network?

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

To get involved, email the LaMarsh Centre for Child & Youth Research [lamarsh@yorku.ca](mailto:lamarsh@yorku.ca)

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