2021
Social Policy Research Centre

Annual Report
2020 - 2021

FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF REGINA
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DIRECTOR'S GREETINGS

While COVID-19 has brought us another interesting year with most of us continuing to work from home, isolated from colleagues and students, we have had many exciting developments at the SPRC in the last year. In the fall, we were sad to say goodbye to Courtney Stange, our Research Administrator as she left for another position at the university. We were thrilled to welcome Hannah Nguyen as our new Research Administrator. Hannah comes to us with a wealth of research knowledge, and we have been so grateful to have her. Our Research Administrators are truly the nucleus of our centre, and I want to give my deepest thank you to Hannah for her work with the SPRC.

Despite the pandemic, the SPRC had a very successful year of virtual Lunch & Learns showcasing the research of Faculty, community members, and students. We were especially thrilled to see attendance from across campus and the broader Saskatchewan community. We look forward to continuing this series virtually in the fall and hope to eventually return to in-person events as well. We also hosted a successful panel event for students on research ethics. Despite all of the challenges presented by the global pandemic, our Research Associates have continued to be incredibly busy, conducting research safely, publishing articles and reports, and securing grants.

In the upcoming year, we aim to consider a few changes. We are currently revisiting our membership criteria and are hoping to bring on more students and former faculty members as Centre Affiliates. Additionally, we plan to revisit the Centre’s name this summer to consider alternatives that better reflect the diversity of our Faculty’s research. Once we have made these important changes, we will work to develop our own strategic plan to align with the Faculty of Social Work’s forthcoming strategic plan. We look forward to continuing our work with the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies to collaborate on ways to support research and research dissemination in our faculty. We will also be welcoming a number of new Faculty members to the FSW this summer and look forward to supporting their research through the SPRC. I am excited to see what the next year brings and wish everyone continued health and well-being.

DR. KARA FLETCHER
about us

The Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), housed within the Faculty of Social Work (FSW), supports social work research that addresses issues faced by vulnerable, marginalized and oppressed groups. Our community-engaged research utilizes both Indigenous and Western research approaches with specific attention to social action that will inform changes in policy, practice, and education for a sustainable future.

research principles

To facilitate social policy and practice research that promotes social justice and fosters individual, family and community development

To support social justice and equity research that focuses on marginalized and oppressed groups

To support research that focuses on community engagement and research-to-action through informing changes in policy and practice
who we are

Director
Dr. Kara Fletcher

Research Administrator
Hannah Nguyen

Research Associates
Dr. Lise Milne
Dr. Raven Sinclair
Dr. Randy Johner
Dr. Fritz Pino
Dr. Nuelle Novik
Dr. Bonnie Jeffery
Dr. Cathy Roke
Dr. Charles Gyan
Dr. Darlene Chalmers
Dr. Amanda Gebhard
Dr. Ailsa Watkinson
Dr. Gabriela Novotna
Dr. Miguel Sanchez
Dr. Michele Sorensen
Dr. Doug Durst
Dr. Funke Oba

visit us

www.uregina.ca/socialwork/sprc/
@UofR_SPRC

our research assistants

Natassia D'Sena
Ashley Balsom
Soumya Shukla
Kristen Pawliw
Katya MacDonald
Priscilla Gardipy
Hanah Molloy
Priscila Ferreira da Silva
Erin McLeod
Taylot Hill
Arinade Olaniyi
Samantha Zerafa
Bosede Akinola
Stacey McHenry
Danielle Chartier
Cody Fogg
Pamela Reimer
Lin Ge
Peta Gay Watson-Jones
Donna Dumitrescu
Amanda Mihalicz
Ritu Patel
Uwakwe Kalu
Gary Mah
Alberta Muembo
Rayna Fisher
Olufemi Ajiboye
Jacqueline Anderson
Julian Wotherspoon
Chantelle Priel
2020-2021 at a Glance

$2,533,935
Combined New Research Dollars

Key Challenges
Shift to work-from-home setup
Research restrictions due to Covid-19

- 20 newly funded projects
- 39 peer-review publications and book chapters
- 30 research assistant hired and trained
The SPRC has four main components outlined in our foundation document to evaluate our performance. The following four components encompass the requirements of the University of Regina’s policy on annual reporting for faculty-based research centres.

**KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

**Level of Research Activity**
- Research Funding: Grants & Contracts

**Impacts on Scholarship**
- Research publications, presentations, and workshops

**Impacts on Research Capacity**
- Research opportunities for students & development of innovative teaching tools

**Impacts on Society, Practice, and Policy**
- Partnerships, projects, and media coverage
We exercise voluntary reporting of research activities. Our data may not capture the full number of grant applications submitted. We continue to encourage our Research Associates to share all research activities with us so we can continue to support them.

MAY 1, 2020 - APRIL 30, 2021*

$2,533,935 NEW RESEARCH DOLLARS
- CIHR 67%
- SSHRC 12%
- UofR 2%
- NACPF 18%
- Other 1%

27 APPLICATIONS
- Funded 74%
- Pending 7%
- Unfunded 19%

18 ONGOING/RECENTLY COMPLETED GRANTS
# RECENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Description</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fletcher, K. (PI), Milne, L., &amp; Novotna, G. (Co-Is). <em>Stories to Tell: A Pilot Podcast Project for Youth with Lived Experience of Crystal Meth Use in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan</em>. SSHRC Insight Development Grant. 2020 – 2022</td>
<td>$74,935</td>
<td>SPRC</td>
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<th>Grant Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sinclair, R (PI). <em>Northern Prairie Spirit Youth Cultural Continuity</em>. National Crime Prevention Strategy, Public Safety Canada</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>SPRC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gebhard, A. (PI). <em>Critical and Anti-oppressive Research on School Bullying and Violence: A Scoping Review</em>. University of Regina President’s Seed Grant</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>SPRC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gebhard, A. (PI), Pino, F. (Co-I). <em>Existing and Exacerbated Educational Inequities for Newcomer Students in COVID-19: School Settlement Workers Respond</em>. Community Research and Action Fund (CRA Fund) - University of Regina</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>SPRC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pino, F. (PI). <em>Paths to Inclusion: Social Support Needs of 2SLGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Members of the University of Regina</em>. 2SLGBTQ+ Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity Research Microgrant</td>
<td>$4,850</td>
<td>SPRC</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Pino, F. (PI). <em>Understanding the Needs of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) Residents of Regina’s Heritage Neighborhood.</em> Community Research and Action Fund (CRA Fund) – University of Regina</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>SPRC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pino, F. (Co-I). <em>Mental Health, Substance Use, and Service Needs Access and Delivery among Two-Spirit, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and other Men who have sex with Men in Manitoba.</em> CIHR – Operating Grant: COVID-19 Mental Health and Substance Use Service Needs and Delivery Funding 2020-2021</td>
<td>$175,000</td>
<td>U of M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pino, F. (Co-I). <em>Gender and Sexual Identity Expressions: Experiences of LGBTQ+ Filipino Immigrants in Saskatchewan.</em> President’s Research Seed Grant &amp; SSHRC Explore Grant, University of Regina</td>
<td>$4,912</td>
<td>SPRC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novotna, G. (Co-I). <em>The project explored the experiences of immigrants in the region of Durham.</em> SSHRC - Partnership Grant</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Trent U</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novik, N. (PI). <em>Implementing a Collective Impact Approach in Providing Supports and Services for Older Adults with Dementia and their Care Partners.</em> Mitacs Globalink Research Internship</td>
<td>Research Internship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeffery, B. (Co-I). <em>Maximizing Saskatchewan Breast Cancer Screening Program Rates</em>. SHRF, Establishment Grant.</td>
<td>$102,660</td>
<td>SPHERU</td>
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We exercise voluntary reporting of research activities. Our data may not capture the full number of publications/presentations. We continue to encourage our Research Associates to share all their research activities with us so we can continue to support them.

Impacts on Scholarship

39

Scholarly Publications, Book Chapters, and Academia Reports

29

Conference Presentations & Invited Talks

(*) We exercise voluntary reporting of research activities. Our data may not capture the full number of publications/presentations. We continue to encourage our Research Associates to share all their research activities with us so we can continue to support them.
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS


**LIST OF PUBLICATIONS**


**Milne, L.**, and **Fletcher, K.** (2020). *Experiences of students in University of Regina Faculty of Social Work and Justice Studies field practicum seminars*. University of Regina Distance and Distributed Learning: Unpublished. 51 pp.


**LIST OF PUBLICATIONS**


**Gebhard, A.** (2020). *Power Relations, Knowledge Productions, and Teaching Against Oppression on the Canadian Prairies: A Self-Study*. Studying Teacher Education. 16 (2), 204-221, DOI: 10.1080/17425964.2020.1742105

**Gebhard, A.** (2020). *Rethinking Pink Day: Ending the bullying catch-all*. Our Schools, Our Selves: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Summer/Fall, 23–25

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS


LIST OF PUBLICATIONS


LIST OF PUBLICATIONS


LIST OF CONFERENCES & TALKS

**Fletcher, K.** McHenry. S. *Saskatoon Health Authority mental health and substance abuse treatment: What is working and what can we improve?* Saskatchewan Health Research Showcase. November 16th, 2020.


**Fletcher, K.** (accepted, canceled due to COVID-19). *Bringing research to direct practice: A Social Work Research Club in Saskatoon Saskatchewan, 5 slides in 5 minutes.* International Conference on Practice Research, Melbourne Australia. May 2020.

**Fletcher, K.** *How We Say It Matters: Rethinking Language Around Substance Use, Research with Impact Series.* University of Regina. April 20, 2021.

**Fletcher, K.** *Understanding harm reduction.* Invited speaker, Humboldt Association of Social Workers. March 16, 2021

**Sinclair, R.** *Distinguished Indigenous Speakers Series.* Hosted by the School of Social Work at the University of British Columbia. May 2, 2021.
LIST OF CONFERENCES & TALKS


Gebhard, A., Allen, W., & Pino, F. “The issues we encounter are bigger than ourselves...But we are very determined:” *School settlement work during COVID-19*. 23rd Metropolis Canada Conference: Migrants, Migration, and Mobility: COVID-19 Response and Recover. March 22, 2021


LIST OF CONFERENCES & TALKS

**Gebhard, A.** *Discourse Analysis: A Methodology and a Method.* University of Regina, Qualitative Research in Social Work Education. March 1, 2021.


LIST OF CONFERENCES & TALKS


Jeffery, B. & Wolfe, A. (2020). Social Isolation in People with Dementia. Presented at University of Saskatchewan, College of Medicine, Continuing Medical Education Webinar on Older Adults, November 4, 2020, [virtual presentation]


Impacts on Research Capacity

30

Research Assistants Hired and Trained

$222,624

Paid to Research Assistants & Project Staff
I started my position as a Research Assistant (RA) with the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) in May 2020 under the supervision of Dr. Lise Milne. At this time, I was a Social Work student in search of full-time summer employment. I graduated in December 2020 with my BSW, and am now a registered Saskatchewan social worker with a full-time contract under the supervision of Dr. Nathalie Reid through the Child Trauma Research Centre (CTRC), and still maintain regular connection with Dr. Milne and the SPRC.

When I started as a student RA with the SPRC, I was given many opportunities that I noticed were more advanced than opportunities commonly available to students. The pay was admirable for a summer student position and continued to inflate with credentials, the hours were plentiful and flexible, and my superiors were incredibly understanding of mental and physical health conditions that may occasionally affect job performance. I immediately felt a connection with my work team, and this proved to stay consistent.

My supervisor(s) were and are constantly looking for development opportunities to support my social work research skills. Under the SPRC, my superiors never limited my potential due to the fact that I was a student. I have always been given the opportunity to have my work credited rather than exploited through incorporating my name and presence in all authored publications and virtual presentations, provincially and nationally. All of the opportunities I was given were granted to me with consistent guidance from my supervisor(s), SPRC, and the Faculty of Social work. As a student, being an RA in this environment enhanced my educational capacity to: conduct and articulate literature reviews and co-author research publications; develop a deeper understanding of the process of social work research; and allowed me to develop qualities of professionalism. Being allowed to be this involved in each research project has allowed me to feel more prepared for my Master's thesis and future social work research projects where I may occupy a larger role. I felt trusted with extension projects of my own while having guidance available at any time for roles including program evaluation (i.e., focus groups, qualitative interviewing, statistical analysis, etc.), grant writing, knowledge translation, and report writing which has allowed me to feel confident knowing I can take these guided skills and apply them to my own research projects in the future.

As a student throughout 2020, the SPRC was an excellent support system to accommodate my job at the CTRC, through both their policies and their staff. As a registered social worker with a full-time contract, the U of R provides satisfying salary, benefits, and continued professional support. Being an RA through the SPRC has been a fulfilling experience that has opened many doors for me in my continued social work development.
The experience working as a research assistant has helped me in my current career and my future career in a number of ways. Currently I work in private practice and developing research skill is great in terms of preparing for sessions. When I’m tackling a client issue that may be new, or perhaps needs a new approach, research skills are an asset. Along with this has been the fact that I’ve been able to access the U of R library as an employee which allows me access to information I wouldn’t otherwise have. Also, the content of some of the topics I’ve researched (such as working with Aging populations) has really helped me to understand my clientele better and be more informed of the issues they face.

As well, it has been a long term goal of mine to teach Social Work courses. Working as both a TA and a research assistant to develop courses with Dr. Jeffery has really given me great experience should I take on a sessional teaching role. I will have some idea of how to develop a course and the amount/type of work that goes into it. As well, just being able to have access to Dr. Jeffery to discuss various aspects of teaching, course development, etc. has been incredibly valuable in guiding my decisions and working towards the goal of teaching. Without the engagement with faculty and with the U of R, I’d be lost in my day-to-day career (which is great! But limits my scope of practice and lens of social work), however this research assistant opportunity keeps me engaged in the practice of social work in new and different ways which ultimately benefits my practice and my skill set as a social worker as a whole.
Impacts on Society, Practice and Policy

Lunch & Learn Presentations

Media Engagements

Research Partners
SPRC Hosted Events

Lunch & Learns were held each month from September to April through Zoom. These events allow the community to learn about current research projects, preliminary results, and allow researchers to disseminate this knowledge to the wider community.

Bring your lunch & learn with us

Every third Tuesday from September to April
Zoom meeting ID: 975 2722 3531
Passcode: 357650

Recorded past events

https://www.uregina.ca/socialwork/sprc/Resources/Recorded-Events.html
LIST OF MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS


Fletcher, K., Milne, L. *Research Report: Experiences of Students in University of Regina Faculty of Social Work and Justice Studies Field Practicum Seminars.* Final Report for University of Regina Distance and Distributed Learning Committee: Unpublished. 51pp. 2020


Fletcher, K. *Five tips for the tired heart to make connections this Valentine’s Day.* YouTube Video created by the University of Regina Communications team. 2020

Fletcher, K. “*#UofRegina Cares: Tips for Relationship Survival During Covid-19.*” YouTube Video created by University of Regina Communications team. Video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLYMC-o6iUQ
LIST OF MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS


**Fletcher, K.** *Getting along with your partner while working from home*. CTV NEWS Regina at 5pm. December 1, 2020.

LIST OF MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS


**Fletcher, K.** *Federal funding awarded to U of R researchers delving into pressing social, environmental, technological, and economic issues.* University of Regina homepage. September 2, 2020.


LIST OF MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS


**Milne, L.** University of Regina Homepage. U of R’s Child Trauma Research Centre launches Digital Connections Hub to support the well-being of children, youth, families, and service providers in the Prairies. https://www.uregina.ca/external/communications/releases/current/nr-12092020.html


LIST OF MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS


OUR SELECTED RESEARCH PARTNERS

Child Trauma Research Centre

RESOLVE Saskatchewan

McGill University

Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services

Corrections Service Canada