



# 2021-2022 Year in Review

---



**FACTOR-INWENTASH**  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



# Dean's Message



"It has been my privilege to witness our community's unwavering commitment and determination."

**Charmaine Williams**

I am very pleased to present the 2021-2022 Year in Review from the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. As we reflect on this past year, you will learn about many of the achievements and events that made it memorable and the exciting initiatives that are taking us into the 2022-2023 academic year.

This past year was one of significant disruption and change. The pandemic and accompanying restrictions presented many challenges for our students, faculty, staff and alumni. We lost two beloved colleagues: Professor Marion Bogo and Practicum Assistant Denise Russell — losses that were especially difficult during a time when weren't able to come together. We also had a change in leadership when our former dean, Dexter Voisin, made the difficult decision to return to the United States, and I left the School of Graduate Studies to step in as interim dean.

A year like this reveals the essential character of a place and its people, and it has been my privilege to witness our community's unwavering commitment and determination to achieving excellent and innovative social work education, to transforming lives through research and practice, and to promoting well-being and social justice both locally and abroad.

The 2021-2022 academic year was also one of significant accomplishments. We graduated 288 students from our MSW program and 3 students from our PhD program. We launched several new equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives, including a new admissions process, leadership programs, and co-curricular programming. Our faculty members engaged practitioners, policymakers and the public through social media, workshops, policy briefs and research reports. Our Alumni Association hosted a series of well-attended events as well, bringing our community together to discuss important issues of practice, policy and advocacy.

This past year, we also continued to provide much-needed mental health support to the city's most underserved communities through our Talk it Out online clinic and other faculty-directed initiatives. We engaged in vital community work and capacity-building through projects based in Toronto and around the world. In total, our faculty members were awarded more than \$5 million dollars in external research funding and produced an impressive 191 peer-reviewed publications, connecting research to practice. If you have been following the work of our Faculty in the monthly newsletters, then you know this is only a fraction of the incredible work that was done this past year.

I would like to express my gratitude to the staff, students, faculty, instructors and alumni who made these exceptional accomplishments possible.

As we continue to live with the effects of this pandemic and other challenges to safety, health and well-being in our communities, we know that the work of social work and social workers is more needed than ever. In the year ahead, we will continue this work, guided by our [Academic Strategic Plan](#), which we are extending. I look forward to collaborating with all of you to achieve our goals, to the benefit of society.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Charmaine Williams**

Professor and Interim Dean  
Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work  
University of Toronto

# Strategic Directions

FIFSW's Academic Strategic plan outlines four strategic directions. This year we look back on the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work's achievements with these four goals in mind.



## Mobilize Knowledge

**Page 3**

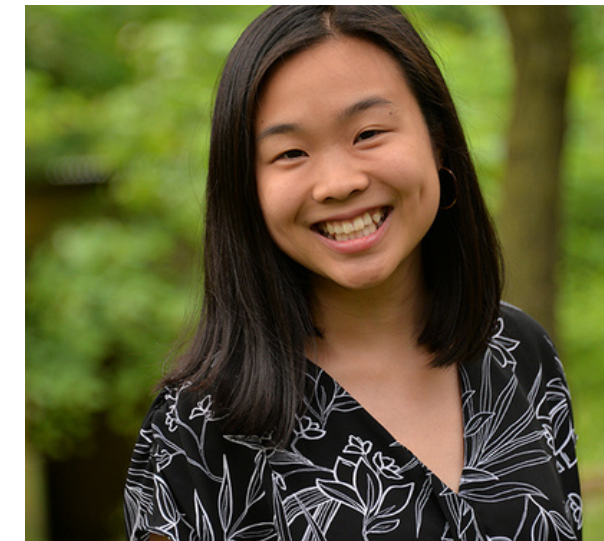
FIFSW's research helps strengthen social work practice, policy and leadership. By sharing our work with broad audiences, we also aim to heighten its impact.



## Promote Wellbeing & Equity

**Page 7**

Equity, diversity and inclusion are vital to our programs and scholarship. We're working to address the needs of communities and promote health and wellbeing for all.



## Foster Innovative Learning

**Page 11**

Advancements in our, curriculum, co-curricular activities and admissions processes and supports for students enriches social work education— and ultimately the profession as a whole.



## Collaborate Locally/Nationally/ Globally

**Page 14**

Partnerships, both local and abroad, bolster our research, networks, and engagement across constituencies, strengthening the impact of our work.



# Mobilize Knowledge

"The research activity at FIFSW is high, with a faculty that is talented and studying the most important problems."

## — UTQAP Review

FIFSW research is filling important gaps in knowledge, advancing social work practice and informing much-needed changes in policy.

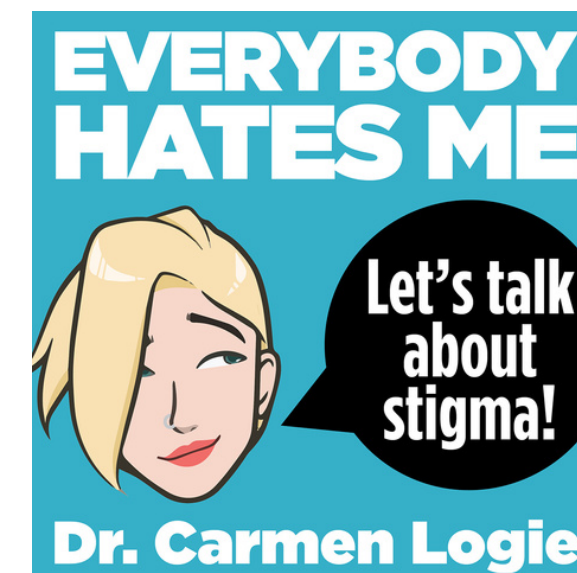
Over the 2021-2022 academic year, our internationally recognized faculty received **\$5.2 million in funding from external grants** (versus \$4.9 million the year before). Between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022, FIFSW faculty held **96 active grants** and our faculty members' peer-reviewed publication rate increased by nearly 58%.

FIFSW's practice-based research is getting noticed and making a difference. Faculty members are partnering with communities, organizations and interdisciplinary teams to increase the effectiveness of their work, while both faculty and staff have increased efforts to ensure knowledge is broadly disseminated, resulting in over **160 media mentions**.

The **Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development Policy Bench**, led by **Professor Barbara Fallon** alongside a colleague from **SickKids** is but one impressive example of our Faculty's impactful work. This past year alone, it released reports on the effects of school closures during COVID-19, a policy brief on the collection of race and identity-based data, fact sheets for Indigenous Services Canada, and a report on cannabis use during pregnancy.

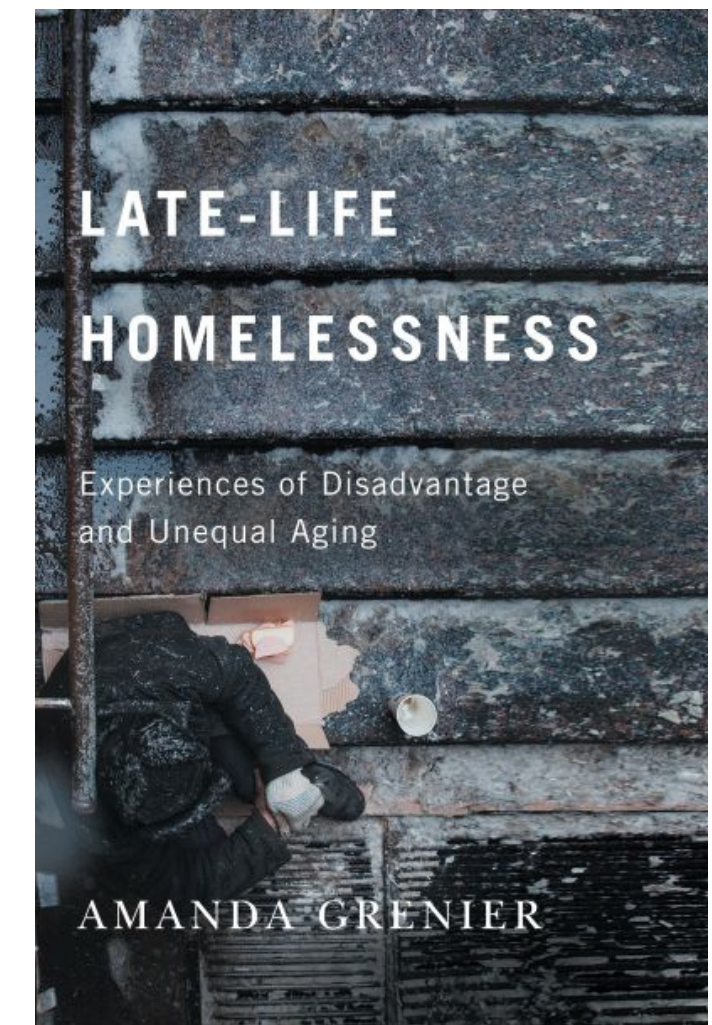
As you'll see in the pages that follow, more examples across our domains of research abound. **Visit the faculty and research pages on FIFSW's website** for a full list of [active grants](#); recent [peer-reviewed publications](#); [labs, projects, networks and institutes](#); and [feature stories](#) that share the impact of our work.

The Family Caregiving Project, led by **Professor Charmaine Williams** created extensive training resources and tools to support families affected by mental illness.



**Associate Professor Carmen Logie's** podcast has received over 10,000 downloads.

*Late-Life Homelessness*, by **Professor Amanda Grenier**, is the first Canadian book to address homelessness among older adults. Amanda holds the **Norman and Honey Schipper Chair in Gerontological Social Work**.







## Sophie Lucyk Virtual Library

The Sophie Lucyk Virtual Library (SLVL) is an ongoing strategic partnership between FIFSW and the University of Toronto Libraries. Since its inception in 2015, the virtual library's goal has been to make FIFSW-produced research freely available to the public.

The library is a fitting memorial to honour alumna and social worker **Sophie Lucyk**'s desire to help all people receive an education. It was created through the vision of alumna **Rosemary Slivinskis**, executor of the estate of Sophie Lucyk.

The FIFSW research housed in SLVL's open access collection includes publications from scholarly journals, conference proceedings, reproductions of House of Commons proceedings from committee meetings and PhD dissertations completed by FIFSW graduates.

Over the last year (June 2021 – May 2022) the SLVL TSpace collection averaged **1,178 views per month**. The collection also maintained an average of about **2,599 downloads per month**. A total of **31,190 downloads occurred over the last year**. The library now boasts **554 items**, up from 476 last year.

# FIFSW Research 2021-2022

## By the numbers

37

Faculty



8

Postdoctoral fellows

11

Endowed chairs

5

Canada Research  
Chairs

21

Labs, networks, institutes  
and projects



191

Peer reviewed  
publications

(up 58% from 2020-2021)



61%

Percentage of faculty  
members holding grants  
as principal investigators

**\$5.2 million**

Awarded in research grants  
(April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022)

96

Active grants

46

Projects funded by  
SSHRC

3

SSHRC Partnership  
Grants

10

Research grants  
totaling more than  
\$500,000

12

Projects funded by  
CIHR



# Media outreach



FIFSW faculty, students, and initiatives were featured more than 160 times in national and global media – including TV, radio, print, online publications, podcasts and documentaries.

Key media included, the *Toronto Star*, the *Globe and Mail*, the *National Post*, *The Guardian*, *CTV News*, *CP24*, *Global News*, *CBC Radio*, *CityTV*, *Radio Canada*, the *Calgary Monitor*, *Hindustan Times*, and *Pennsylvania News Today*.



In March, we launched a **new monthly newsletter** to showcase the wealth of research, teaching and advocacy activities taking place at FIFSW with a broader audience of alumni, collaborators, and members of the public. **Not yet a subscriber? [Click here to sign up.](#)**



Our weekly **Alumni Digest** shares job postings, event listings and more. **Interested in joining the alumni listserv? Contact [alumni.fifsw@utoronto.ca](mailto:alumni.fifsw@utoronto.ca)**



Follow FIFSW on twitter [@UofT\\_FIFSW](#) and on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#) [@uoftFIFSW](#).



## Announcing the Janis Rotman Distinguished Lecture Series on Mental Wellness

In 2021, FIFSW shared the news of a new annual speaker series. The Janis Rotman Distinguished Lecture Series on Mental Wellness will present an annual keynote address by a leading researcher, practitioner, or educator on topics such as innovations in culturally attuned mental health services, social work’s role in addressing widening mental health disparities, the impact of community-based care, and other contemporary concerns at the intersection of social work and mental health.

The Fall 2022 inaugural lecture will feature **Associate Professor Monnica Williams from the Brain and Mind Research Institute at the University of Ottawa**. More details will be shared on our website and in our newsletters soon.

We'd like to thank **Janis Rotman** for her generous support of FIFSW's Talk it Out Online Counselling Clinic, which inspired the launch of this series.



## Mobilizing engagement

In 2021-2022, the [Institute for Life Course and Aging \(ILCA\)](#), directed by **Professor Esme Fuller-Thomson**, produced 8 online workshops for health professionals and continued its Emerging Scholars Research Seminar Series. ILCA has seen growing public engagement through use of social media, attracting many new followers to its twitter account and [YouTube](#) channel. [Follow the Institute on twitter @lifecourseUofT.](#)





## Projects and partnerships

Examples of how FIFSW faculty are harnessing the power of collaboration

### Highlighting anti-Black racism in the child welfare system

A groundbreaking report released by **One Vision One Voice (OVOV)** and FIFSW researchers, outlines, quantifiably, that anti-Black racism plays a significant role in child welfare referrals and investigations in Ontario and identifies specific points within the service continuum where anti-Black racism is driving the involvement of Black families in child welfare. The report's findings will inform future research initiatives, including a Disparity Mapping Project, which OVOV will complete in partnership with FIFSW's **Youth Wellness Lab**.

### Cultivating confidence in marginalized youth

**Assistant Professor Stephanie Begun** explored how improv might foster self-esteem, social connectedness and confidence in marginalized youth. She partnered with **The Second City Toronto**, an improv and comedy theatre company that provided a facilitator; an **after-school program** that engages adolescent and young women; and a **local shelter for youth and women** experiencing homelessness. The results were transformative, and Begun hopes to pursue future research that will quantify improv's benefits.

### Addressing vaccine access for racialized sexual and gender minority people

**Professor Peter A. Newman** and UTSC **Assistant Professor Notisha Massaquoi** are working in partnership with **Toronto Public Health** and several community-based agencies to better understand the pandemic experience of racialized sexual and gender minorities – and the complex factors associated with vaccination decision-making in this group. The knowledge they glean will be shared with policymakers and community leaders in hopes of improving pandemic responses and enhancing vaccination rates.

### Foregrounding Indigenous knowledge

2SHAWLS (the Two-spirit HIV/AIDS Wellness and Longevity Study) was a project co-led by **Professor David Brennan, Indigenous elder and community provider Art Zoccole**, noted **Indigenous social work scholar Randy Jackson**, as well as another Indigenous leader, the late **Tony Nobis**. The research team was a blend of settler academics, two-spirit/gay/bisexual men and people living long-term with HIV. Together, they worked to highlight the resilience of two-spirit men living long-term with HIV, uplifting voices that are rarely represented in the research literature.



# Alumni events & engagement

FIFSW's active Alumni Association held **six online events** this year, attracting an **average audience of 72 attendees** each. Topics focused on issues that were top of mind for social workers, including:

- trauma-informed care and the secondary impacts of COVID-19, presented by **Jane Middleton-Moz**, director of the Middleton-Moz Institute and assistant professor;
- approaches to supporting Black survivors of homicide victims, presented by **Associate Professor Tanya Sharpe**; and
- social workers on the frontline of the echo pandemic in family law, presented by **Professor Michael Saini**.

Five of the seven speakers were FIFSW faculty, making these events a wonderful way to continue engaging alumni with the Faculty and the scope of work being done here.

Despite ongoing difficulties imposed by the pandemic, we were able to continue to grow and retain engagement with our alumni community. Alumni contributed time and expertise to support student practicums as field instructors. They assisted in important projects, such as the Black and Indigenous Student Admissions Programs. They also participated in the Faculty through a variety of FIFSW committees, such as those focused on field instruction; admissions; and diversity, equity and inclusion. **We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who was able to contribute their time and expertise.**

Would you like to learn more about how you can stay connected and get involved with the Faculty as an FIFSW alumnus? Contact [alumni.fifsw@utoronto.ca](mailto:alumni.fifsw@utoronto.ca).



FIFSW Alumni President Andria Allen addresses graduates at the Faculty's 2022 convocation luncheon.



# Promotions and appointments



**Suzy Goodleaf was appointed assistant professor, teaching stream.** A Mohawk Two Spirit person from Kahnawake and a member of the Bear Clan, Goodleaf helped foster the development of FIFSW's Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency field of study.

**Rachelle Ashcroft was promoted to Associate Professor.** Ashcroft joined FIFSW in 2016 and is cross appointed to U of T's Department of Family and Community Medicine, Temerty Faculty of Medicine. [Read more about her research here.](#)

**In addition to being promoted to the rank of Associate Professor** this year, **Bryn King** was announced the **Factor-Inwentash Chair in Child Welfare.** Her program of research examining child abuse and neglect, improving policies and practices for children and families, and bettering the lives of children and youth will continue a tradition of highly impactful contributions from scholars in this Chair, one of five endowed thanks to a 2007 landmark donation from Lynn Factor and Sheldon Inwentash.

# Spotlight on our endowed chairs

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, FIFSW boasts a total of 11 endowed chairs who are having an outsized impact on social work research, practice and teaching.

As **RBC Chair in Applied Social Work Research, Professor Daniyal Zuberi** is working on five ground-breaking studies, including investigations into the dynamics of urban poverty in Canadian cities and a participatory action research project on the working conditions, job security and health of precariously employed health sector workers in Toronto.

As the **Factor-Inwentash Chair in Health and Mental Health, Associate Professor Enujung Lee** had a very productive year, providing leadership in both institutionally based and community-based health and mental health settings. In 2021-2022, she had 18 funded projects, published 2 book chapters and 27 peer-reviewed journal articles, and gave 12 presentations at local, national and international conferences and workshops.

As the **Factor-Inwentash Chair of Law and Social Work, Professor Michael Saini** has focused on continuing to strengthen collaborations with several local agencies and international initiatives to help increase access to justice and improve the wellbeing of children and families involved in the legal system.

As the **Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Chair in Child and Family, Professor Ramona Alaggia's** research projects include studies to bridge knowledge between Canada and Scotland on trauma-informed care for children and youth.

Look for the work of other endowed chairs highlighted throughout this report.



## Meet the FIFSW community

Q&As with our professors, alumni and practicum partners can be found in the [news section of FIFSW's website.](#)

2021-2022 Q&As:

- **Netanel Gemera**, postdoctoral fellow
- **Ruth Brickman**, field instructor
- **Maytal Michael**, field instructor
- **Charmaine Williams**, interim dean and professor
- **Terry Gardiner**, alumnus
- **Lori Chambers**, postdoctoral fellow
- **Moyo Rainos Mutamba**, alumnus
- **Sherene Whyte**, alumna
- **Debbie Johnson**, alumna
- **Harry Taylor**, assistant professor

Would you like to suggest someone for a Q&A? Email [dale.duncan@utoronto.ca](mailto:dale.duncan@utoronto.ca).



# Promote Wellbeing & Equity

"During our site visit, a number of people pointed out the exceptional work FIFSW has conducted to ensure a commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonization. In fact, FIFSW was commended as being a guiding light in this work for the rest of the University of Toronto."

— CASWE Accreditation Site Visit Report

FIFSW was directly involved in promoting wellbeing and equity both locally and internationally this year. Examples include:

- the [Talk it Out Online Counselling Clinic](#)'s involvement in providing mental health support to under-served communities in Toronto,
- the [#SafeHandSafeHearts](#) Project's delivery of short-term counselling for COVID-related anxiety to racial minority LGBTQ people in Toronto and sexual and gender minority people in Thailand and India, and
- the [Youth Wellness Lab](#)'s outreach to young people to engage them in research on their experiences during the pandemic.

Our student services team and faculty members also made tremendous efforts to promote community engagement and wellbeing for our students while we all continued to work and learn remotely. In addition to planning both online and in-person community gatherings, **staff, faculty and students fostered the formation of nine new student affinity groups**, including groups for Black students, Asian students, immigrant and refugee students, international students, 2SLGBTQ+ students, neurodiverse students, South Asian students and Christian students.

Keep reading to see more examples of how we have been working to promote wellbeing and equity through our research, teaching, advocacy and services.

The **Asian Social Work Student Group** was started to meet the need for safer community space for Asian-identified students. Pictured, right, is Felix Kwong, Zijia Liu, Vikki, and Hogan Lam.



The **Black Social Work Student Association**, is dedicated to creating cohesion among the Black community at FIFSW. Pictured, above, are students Shantel Aboagye-Mensah, Nakema Rae McManamna, Divine Muzia, and Rachel Wilson.



Want to learn how you  
can support counselling  
services that are  
relevant and meaningful  
to communities?  
> [Click here](#)

## Supporting mental wellness in the community

In December 2021, FIFSW announced a new \$150,000 gift from Janis Rotman, which will enable the Faculty's Talk it Out Online Counselling Clinic to extend its support for racialized adults, including those living with chronic illness. "This new gift will help strengthen our ability to serve the diverse needs of individuals facing systemic barriers, including long waitlists and a lack of culturally responsive services," says **Associate Professor Lin Fang**, founding director of Talk it Out, and the **Factor-Inwentash Chair in Children's Mental Health**.

The \$150,000 donation is the second major gift that Rotman has made to the online clinic within its first year. Talk it Out launched in March 2021, inspired by a \$100,000 lead gift from Rotman, who wanted to help provide free, accessible and culturally sensitive mental health support for Black youth and families in the Greater Toronto Area. FIFSW is also grateful for the generosity of Joan and Bernard Aaron, CIBC, Judy San, Ricki Blau and William Reeves, TELUS Friendly Future Foundation, alumni and friends, in support of the Clinic.

"I have witnessed, first hand, the impact that a chronic physical health diagnosis can have on depression, anxiety, and distress, exacerbating already challenging situations. Extending Talk it Out's capacity to address the mental health needs of those living with chronic illness will further its ability to reduce service gaps and support vulnerable communities."

— Janis Rotman



# Expanding & supporting diversity

FIFSW is committed to building a community where learners experience a barrier free education from admissions through to graduation and as they enter the social work profession. While this work is ongoing, here's a look at some of the initiatives we established this year.

## Black and Indigenous application programs

Diversity-focused development of the MSW Admission Process took a major step forward this year with the launch of the [Black Student Admissions Program](#) and [Indigenous Student Admissions Program](#). We would like to thank our alumni representing Black and Indigenous communities who participated in reviewing admission portfolios as part of this program.

As a result of these efforts, the number of self-identified Black applicants accepted into the MSW program doubled this past year. While we did not see similar growth in Indigenous student admissions, we continue to admit cohorts to the [ITR field of study](#) that are 60-75% people identifying as Indigenous to Turtle Island.

## Supporting increasing diversity in the PhD program

Consistent with doctoral programs elsewhere, FIFSW's PhD program reported lower application numbers in Fall 2022; however, the trend of increasing the diversity of the PhD student body continued – and this remains a key aim of the program. An increase in funding for PhD students has been approved, and this year our new PhD Program Director will be reviewing how the program is meeting the needs and learning goals of its increasingly diverse student group.

## Black Social Work Student Supervision Group

A collaboration between the Black Students Association, FIFSW's Student Services team and the Practicum Office, the Black Social Work Supervision Group was launched to support practicum integration specific to the needs and learning goals of Black social work students. This initiative will be evaluated to inform future planning about how to address the needs of Black students and others from underrepresented groups.



## International Students Education Fund

This year we established an International Students Education Fund to enhance support for international students, who now account for nearly 11% of FIFSW's student body, bringing valuable perspectives and knowledge to the social work field, which is serving increasingly globalized communities.

This initiative will be supporting a new mentorship program, two dedicated orientation sessions for international students, enhanced social events, and three seminars per year conducted by PhD students on topics such as practicing social work in Canada.



**Did you know? In 2021-2022, FIFSW gave out \$786,162 in internal awards – more than in any other year before! Thank you to our alumni and friends whose generosity helped establish many of these awards for our students.**

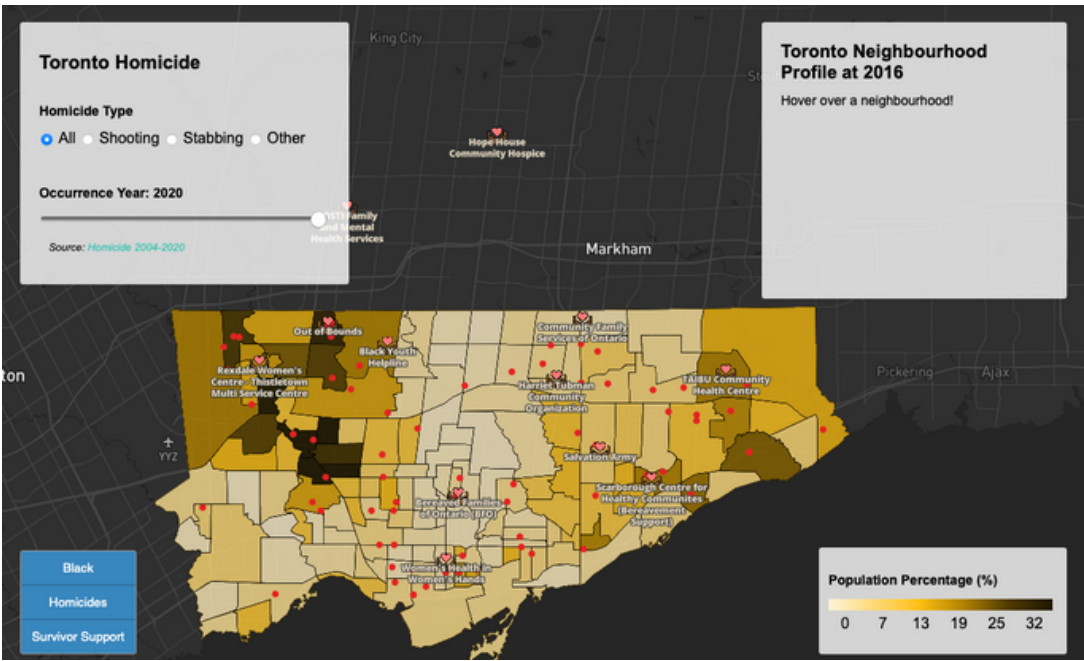


# Promoting health and equity in research

Examples of how FIFSW faculty are working for and with communities to fill gaps in knowledge and address diverse needs

## Tracking homicides in Toronto – and the availability of support for grieving survivors

The **Centre for Research & Innovation for Black Survivors of Homicide Victims** (The CRIB) released a [report and interactive GIS map](#) that shows the disproportionate impact of homicide on African, Caribbean, Black (ACB) communities in Toronto, while providing context for the root causes of homicide and recommendations for an action plan. “The absence of and lack of access to race-based data collection obstructs our ability to comprehend and respond appropriately to the chronic and cumulative impact that homicide has on Black communities,” says The CRIB’s director **Associate Professor Tanya Sharpe**, who holds the **Factor-Inwentash Chair of Social Work in the Global Community**. “The CRIB aims to change that.”



## Addressing the GTA's housing crisis



A [report](#) released by **United Way Greater Toronto**, in collaboration with the **Tower Renewal Partnership** and U of T's **Neighborhood Change Research Partnership**, led by FIFSW **Professor David Hulchanski**, advocates for revitalizing aging high-rise rental towers. "We need both a neighbourhood-level response to the growing income and racial segregation in tower communities as well as significant government support for the environmental and structural renewal of this hugely significant legacy of approximately 2,100 rental apartment towers housing over 200,000 households," says Hulchanski, FIFSW's **Dr. Chow Yei Ching Chair in Housing**.

## Developing strategies to address anti-Asian racism



Both **Associate Professor Lin Fang** and **Associate Professor Izumi Sakamoto** are working on [research in partnership with community organizations](#) to explore Chinese people’s current and past experiences of anti-Asian racism, to raise awareness of anti-Asian racism inside and outside Chinese communities, and to develop strategies to address the crisis. “This racism has always existed in Canada and elsewhere, but it’s not been at the forefront of most people’s consciousness,” says Fang, who holds the **Factor-Inwentash Chair in Children’s Mental Health**. “COVID-19 was a catalyst, unfortunately, making it more visible and present.”



# Foster Innovative Learning

"In our meeting with Field Education Supervisors, they noted that students they hire from this university are the most prepared for Field Practice compared to other institutions in Ontario."

## — UTQAP Review

In 2022, FIFSW was **accredited by the Canadian Association of Social Work Educators for another four years**. The visiting team who reviewed our program, commended the Faculty for its strong leadership and diligent efforts to enhance the diversity of its students and curriculum. It also provided helpful recommendations for further improvements.

In the face of continued challenges posed by the pandemic, our Practicum Office put in an outstanding effort to ensure quality experiences for our students. Faculty members also stepped up to create direct practice opportunities through initiatives such as the Talk it Out clinic and the #SafeHandsSafeHearts study. Read more in the pages ahead about how we are working to further improve practicum experiences for our students.

Simulation-based pedagogy continues to be an important anchor in the MSW curriculum, expanding to more courses as new faculty members are engaged. FIFSW has also maintained its involvement in undergraduate teaching with courses taught by **Professors David Hulchanski and David Brennan** and **Associate Professor Ellen Katz**. Advances are being made to increase our focus on experiential learning, social work competencies, Indigenous content and diversity and inclusion.



MSW-ITR graduates Hyungu Kang and Terrance Lafromboise (above) forged a healing path in their Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency field of study. They're now focused on sharing the broad knowledge they've gained.

MSW students Davina Mukinav (above) and Brennan Snow (right) joined others via social media to share the benefits of participating in U of T's Interprofessional Education curriculum..







## Building social workers as leaders

Given the valuable insight that social workers can offer, recognition of the importance of strengthening their ability as leaders continues to grow. This year FIFSW launched two new leadership programs for Master of Social Work (MSW) students.

**The Indigenous Trauma & Resiliency (ITR) Leadership Scholars Program** provides current students and recent graduates of FIFSW's ITR field of study with the opportunity to receive one-on-one leadership training from skilled professionals across a variety of backgrounds and disciplines. The program's goal is to build the leadership potential of emerging Indigenous social workers to realize sustained and meaningful change within their communities and beyond. A special thanks to the generous support of the **Fu Hui Education Foundation** for helping to make this program possible.

**The FIFSW Student Leadership and Mentorship Program** provides second year or advanced standing Master of Social Work students across FIFSW's 6 fields of study with an opportunity to learn and develop leadership and management skills with a mentor whom they meet with over the course of the year.



## Alumni Mentoring Program

FIFSW's **Alumni Mentoring Program** connects graduating MSW students with alumni who are social work professionals for support and guidance as students prepare to transition from school to the social work field. The 2021-2022 program matched **59 MSW students** with a pool of **77 alumni mentors**. Student participation fees were waived again this year to alleviate financial hardship experienced during the pandemic. This year, BIPOC-identifying students and 2SLGBTQIA+/gender-diverse students also had the option of being matched with a mentor of the same ethnocultural background, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

The Faculty, FIFSW's Alumni Association, and participating student graduates commended this year's alumni mentors for their ongoing commitment and contribution to the development and support of students transitioning into the social work profession. Thank you to everyone who helped make this initiative possible.



## Would you like to be a mentor?

Visit FIFSW's website or contact [mentorship.fifsw@utoronto.ca](mailto:mentorship.fifsw@utoronto.ca) to learn how you can support students through our Alumni Mentoring Program or one of our our two leadership programs.



# Enhancing practicum experiences for students

The Practicum Office has been initiating a number of new measures to continue improving experiences for FIFSW students. These include: re-engaging with schools of social work outside of Canada for practicum exchanges, facilitating practicums in a student's place of employment, increasing accessibility to practicums through technical support, establishing practicums specific to students from marginalized populations, creating a dedicated webpage where field instructors can post diversity-focused practicum offers, and offering diversity workshops to field instructors. This past spring, the Practicum Office also initiated a redesign of the Practicum Administration System (PAS), used to track and match students with practicums as well as a reorganization of the practicum section of FIFSW's website to improve access to information.

Field instructors continue to note that the U of T students are among the most prepared and competent students they work with. Many also share how rewarding the experience of being a field instructor is.

"As a field instructor, you have the opportunity to not only influence the practice of the next generation of social workers, but also maintain a connection to FIFSW and all its resources, including ongoing professional development opportunities," says **Illana Perlman** who has been Education Practice Leader for Social Work at Sunnybrook since 1999.



## Join us as field instructor!

Contact [practicum.fsw@utoronto.ca](mailto:practicum.fsw@utoronto.ca) to learn more & apply.

# Welcoming new leaders

On July 1, 2022 FIFSW welcomed the following faculty members to new positions.



**Associate Professor Eunjung Lee**, who joined FIFSW in 2007 and is the Factor-Inwentash Chair in Mental Health & Health, is our new **Associate Dean Academic**, replacing **Associate Professor David Burnes**. Lee is a psychotherapy-process researcher focused on cross-cultural clinical practice in community mental health. Her research explores everyday interactions in clinical practice and simulation-based learning in social work education.



**Associate Professor Rupaleem Bhuyan** is the new **Director of FIFSW's PhD program**, replacing **Associate Professor Lin Fang**. Bhuyan joined FIFSW in 2008 and previously coordinated the MSW's Social Justice and Diversity field of study. Her research explores how temporary and precarious immigration impacts immigrants' access to social and health care services, including immigrants' response to gender-based violence.

## Innovations in teaching

**Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream Keith Adamson** was recognized with a U of T Early Career Teaching Award in 2022 for his innovative work to bring service users into classroom as co-teachers.





# PhD students making waves



## Harnessing the power of storytelling to effect change for African, Caribbean and Black women living with HIV

**Marvelous Muchenje** is co-leading a research project exploring the HIV service employment of African, Caribbean and Black women living with HIV in Ontario. Through her international advocacy and public speaking in the area of HIV and human rights, she connected with co-principal investigator Lori Chambers, a postdoctoral fellow in social work at U of T, and founder of the **Because She Cares** project.



## Recognizing scholarly achievements

In October, 2021, **Ran Hu** (left) and **Ami Golden**, together with **Associate Professor Bryn King** were awarded the 2021 Disability Manuscript Award, honourable mention, from the Council on Social Work Education.

In December 2021, Ran Hu was honoured with U of T's **Graduate Award for Scholarly Achievement in the Area of Gender-Based Violence**.

Established in 2016, this award recognizes students who have made distinctive contributions in gender-based violence research and prevention.



## 5 PhD dissertations examining critical issues

Congratulations to the PhD students who presented their dissertations in 2021-2022.

### **Bethany Good**

Left to Their Own Devices: Digital Media Use Among Youth in Residential Treatment an Exploratory Study

### **Shen (Lamson) Lin**

Healthy Ageing in a Foreign Land? Examining Health Care Inequities Faced by Older Racialized Immigrants in the Canadian Community Health Survey (2015-2018)

### **Jami-Leigh Sawyer**

Bridging the Gap: Exploring the Treatment Experiences of Children and Youth with Medulloblastoma

### **William O'Leary**

Examination of Practical and Discursive Knowledge Related to the Hospital Admission of People Living with HIV Who Use Drugs: Disrupting Our "Common Sense" Knowledge

### **Sandra McNeil-Marshall**

Substance Use Recovery and Stigma in Rural Contexts



# Collaborate Locally / Nationally / Globally

"The productivity of the FIFSW compares well with peers, surpassing the national average and comparable to productivity levels of the best social work programs in the U.S. and in the world."

— UTQAP Review

Collaborating with diverse partners to address social inequities at local, national and international levels is key to FIFSW's mission to address global concerns and shape the future of a profession that crosses national boundaries.

**Professor A. Ka Tat Tsang's** ongoing work as director of the Faculty's China Project, started in 1997, is an excellent example. Working with Chinese partner institutions, Tsang has contributed to the development of social work education, research and practice in China, becoming an expert in human service in a globalized context. This expertise inspires and informs his support for and leadership on collaborative projects such as a recent SSHRC-funded initiative to explore the social service needs of Muslims in Ontario.

As the endowed **Factor-Inwentash Chair in Social Work in the Global Community**, **Associate Professor Tanya Sharpe** examines the devastating and disproportionate impact that homicide has on Black people throughout local and global communities. Last year her popular Instagram series, 30@8:30, produced by The CRIB, reached viewers from more than a dozen countries, a testament to the international network that The CRIB and its affiliates have developed.

These are just two examples. Learn more about our local, national and global collaborations in the pages that follow.



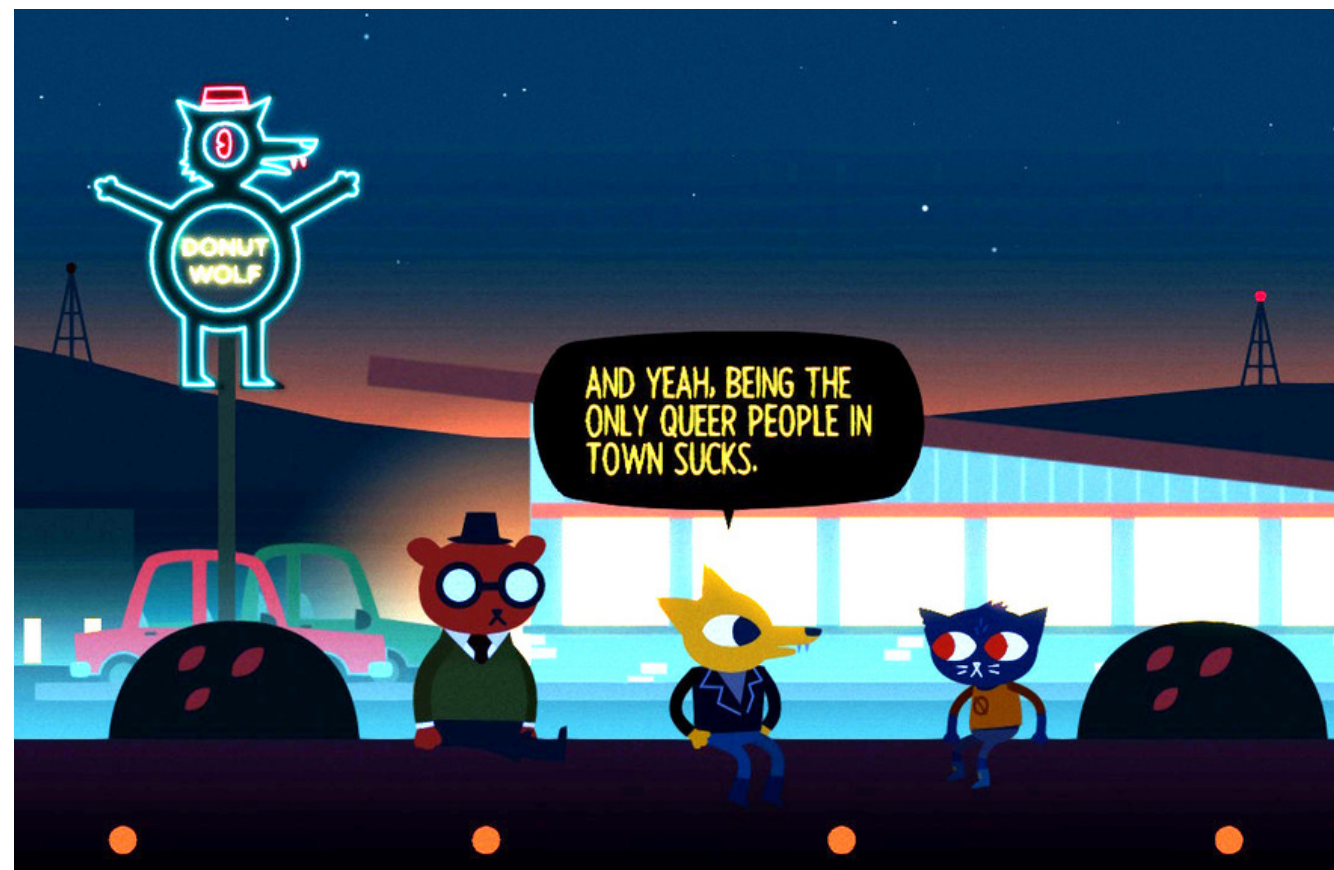


# International reach

Examples of some of FIFSW's global collaborations

## Identifying incidence and risk factors of elder mistreatment

In collaboration with colleagues from Cornell University and Weill Cornell Medicine in the US, **Associate Professor David Burnes** published the first general population-based longitudinal study to look at incidence and risk factors associated with elder abuse. His findings are now helping gerontology professionals better identify risks and employ strategies to prevent elder mistreatment.



## Using virtual reality to improve the mental health of urban refugees

Working with youth and local community partners in Uganda, **Associate Professor Carmen Logie** is developing and testing a VR experience aimed at improving mental health literacy, reducing stigma and decreasing symptoms of depression. Logie is the Canada Research Chair in Global Health Equity and Social Justice with Marginalized Populations.

## Examining whether video games and gaming communities can enhance the wellbeing of LGBTQ+ youth

The **International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience (INQYR)**, led by **Professor Shelley Craig**, is examining LGBTQ representation in video games and the gaming habits and experiences of LGBTQ+ youth in Canada, the US., Mexico, the UK and Australia.

Craig founded INQYR to better understand and support the resilience of LGBTQ+ youth and young adults in an increasingly digitized world. The international, interdisciplinary and multilingual research partnership is the first of its kind to be funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Grant.

## Supporting diverse LGBTQ+ people in Canada, India and Thailand during the pandemic

With funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the #SafeHandsSafeHearts project — led by **Professor Peter Newman**, **Professor Charmaine Williams**, **Assistant Professor Notisha Massaquoi** and **Associate Professor Carmen Logie** — worked with the support of multiple project partners to test the effectiveness of a peer-delivered eHealth intervention to increase COVID-19 knowledge and protective behaviours and to reduce psychological distress during the pandemic.

## Rethinking water practices and equity in India

**Associate Professor Carmen Logie** who is also an adjunct professor at United Nations University's Institute for Water, Environment & Health, partnered with an interdisciplinary team from U of T to use data science to help empower water planners, communities and activists to achieve water equity in India.





## Collaborating across Canada

More examples of how FIFSW faculty are bolstering their research and impact through outreach and partnerships

### Understanding barriers to cultural support

**Assistant Professor Ashley Quinn** partnered with **Inuit organizations across Canada** to fill a gap in understanding of the cultural supports available to Inuit Peoples outside Inuit Nunangut and help build a practice and evidence base for their cultural needs. The primary partner is **Tungasuvvingat Inuit**, a not-for-profit organization that provides Inuit-specific health, cultural and social services in Ontario. The project, funded by the Connaught Fund's Community Partnership Research Program, is the first of its kind.

### Providing critical insights for future virtual care

**Assistant Professor Rachelle Ashcroft** teamed up with Professor Simone Dahrouge from the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Ottawa and MSW graduate Simon Lam to study how health-care providers managed the move to virtual appointments during the pandemic. A **Patient Advisory Committee** helped design and implement their research. "They calibrated our lens to focus directly on the factors that are most relevant and meaningful to patients," says Ashcroft. Recommendations based on the researchers' findings have been shared with Ontario Health.

### Breaking down silos in the child welfare system

**Associate Professor Rupaleem Bhuyan** has been co-leading a collaborative research project involving community partners in both Toronto and Vancouver, including the **Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies** and **YWCA Metro Vancouver** to better understand the roles that immigration status and systemic racism play in child welfare policies and practices. The project is rooted in community participation across the fields of child welfare, immigrant services, anti-Black racism and gender-based violence.

### Building awareness of ADHD in women and girls

**Professor Esme Fuller-Thompson's** research on ADHD has included FIFSW graduates now working for organizations such as the University Health Network and Toronto General Hospital. To enhance knowledge dissemination, she raised awareness of her findings through **media outreach**. During ADHD Awareness month, CBC and CTV News sought her expertise on why ADHD often goes undiagnosed in women and girls for national broadcast. Her 2021 study, which found that one in four women with ADHD has attempted suicide also received international coverage.



# Local and national recognition

FIFSW now boasts five Canada Research Chairs — a testament to the high-quality work taking place within the Faculty to advance knowledge and practice within the social work field. The Canada Research Chairs Program is part of a national strategy to position Canada as one of the world’s top countries in research and development. This past year, Professors Barbara Fallon and Shelley Craig had their CRC positions renewed for a second term, while Associate Professors David Burnes and Micheal Shier received new Chairholder appointments. Here's a full list of FIFSW's chairs and their titles:

**Associate Professor David Burnes**  
**Canada Research Chair in Older Adult Mistreatment Prevention**

**Professor Shelley L. Craig**  
**Canada Research Chair in Sexual and Gender Minority Youth**

**Professor Barbara Fallon**  
**Canada Research Chair in Child Welfare**

**Professor Carmen Logie**  
**Canada Research Chair in Global Health Equity and Social Justice with Marginalized Populations**

**Associate Professor Micheal Shier**  
**Canada Research Chair in Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship in the Human Services**



## Addressing the inequalities that drive AIDS

In his Social Sciences Keynote at the 31st Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research (CAHR 2022), **Professor Peter Newman** argued that biomedicine alone will not provide a magic bullet to solve this global crisis. Newman has devoted two decades to international HIV research and is among many FIFSW faculty and students leading research on the inequalities associated with HIV.

**Associate Professor Carmen Logie** co-chaired CAHR 2022 with Professor Eric J. Arts of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Western University.



## Connaught New Researcher Award

In 2021, **Assistant Professor Kyle Ganson** received a Connaught New Researcher Award, established to foster excellence at U of T. Since his arrival at FIFSW in 2020, Ganson has hit the ground running, delving into research that is advancing our understanding of a topic that previously didn’t get much attention: eating disorders among boys and men.

On top of his research, he has partnered with local organizations Sheena's Place and the National Eating Disorder Information Centre to host community webinars and parent panels.



# Thank you to everyone who contributed to FIFSW's success in the 2021-2022 academic year!

To invest in the future of our Faculty,  
please contact [fund.fifsw@utoronto.ca](mailto:fund.fifsw@utoronto.ca)  
or [visit our online donation page](#).

[Sign up for FIFSW's monthly newsletter](#)



Visit us at:  
[www.socialwork.utoronto.ca](http://www.socialwork.utoronto.ca)



**FACTOR-INWENTASH**  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

246 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, ON M5S 1V4