

The Word

The latest CRIB news, views and announcements

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THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH &
INNOVATION FOR BLACK
SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS



FACTOR - INWENTASH
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

RISE YBMEN TORONTO The CRIB Partners with University of Michigan, Supported by the Movember Foundation



The Centre for Research & Innovation for Black Survivors of Homicide Victims (The CRIB) is thrilled to announce its partnership with the University of Michigan, School of Social Work to launch its most recent research project entitled "Restore, Intervene, Support & Educate Young Black Men (RISE YBMen) Toronto". RISE YBMen Toronto is supported by Movember's Scaling What Works in Community and Workplace Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Grant Fund, headquartered in Melbourne, Australia.

The project aims to support young African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) men ages 16 to 30 who reside in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and have experienced the murder of family members and/or friends. RISE YBmen Toronto will deliver culturally adapted, social media-based (Instagram) mental health education relevant to the management of grief for young male ACB survivors of homicide victims. The program will be facilitated by The CRIB's Neighbourhood Ambassadors, people who work and/or live in the participating neighbourhoods and have dealt with much of what our participants are going through themselves.



RISE YBMen aims to improve the mental health and well-being of young ACB men by focusing on two behavioural change clusters: (1) developing positive habits and accessing support to build mental resilience, and (2) developing and maintaining positive social support networks. **If you are interested in becoming a participant of the RISE YBMen project, please do not hesitate to contact us at riseybmen@gmail.com.**



Meet our RISE YBMEN Project Coordinator!



Elo Igor holds a master's degree in Education with a focus on social justice education and a master's degree in Social Work. She is passionate about resource development and implementation and facilitating meaningful spaces for Black and racialized youth to self-actualize. Elo has experience working with youth from racialized, gender diverse, ethnoculturally, and socioeconomically marginalized communities in both the criminal justice and education systems. Elo is currently a PhD student at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. Her intention is to explore and develop culturally relevant mental health interventions for Black boys in the education system. Through her experiences both professionally and personally she has witnessed the impact of the school to prison pipeline and is committed to working alongside communities to disrupt this systemic funneling.

PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS

CRIB Team visits YAAACE

Earlier this year The CRIB visited our community partner, the Youth Association for Academics, Athletics, and Character Education (YAAACE) to learn more about their violence prevention and intervention programs that they provide across Toronto including - the Summer Institute, TO Wards peace, and the New Narrative.

Founded in 2007, YAAACE is a black-led community organization who's mandate to serve marginalized and under-resourced communities directly align with our mission to "create sustainable opportunities for communities". The CRIB is fortunate to have YAAACE as a community affiliate and we look forward to our continued collaboration!



Invisible Wounds: Stories of Survivorship

2ND FILM SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION

In keeping with The CRIB's commitment to disseminate the digital stories of participants from our SSHRC funded project, *Invisible Wounds: Exploring the Experiences of African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) Survivors of Homicide Victims*, via free community screenings. We hosted our second Film Screening and Panel Discussion of *Invisible Wounds: Stories of Survivorship* on September 13th at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus. The evening featured remarks from the Vice-President and Principal of University of Toronto Scarborough, Professor Wisdom Tettey; Vice-Chancellor and President of Victoria University in the University of Toronto, Professor Rhonda McEwen; Dean of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, Professor Charmaine Williams; and Founding Director of the Youth Association for Academics, Athletics, and Character Education (YAAACE), Mr. Devon Jones.





Dr. Tanya L. Sharpe; Rani Sanderson, StoryCentre; Deshawn Hibbert, Neighbourhood Ambassador Coordinator, The CRIB; Tito-tae Sharpe, Neighbourhood Ambassador, The CRIB; Jheanelle Anderson, Senior Research Assistant, The CRIB

After the screening of the film, Dr. Sharpe was joined on stage by four panelists – Rani Sanderson, StoryCentre; Deshawn Hibbert, Coordinator of The CRIB’s Neighbourhood Ambassador Program; Tito-tae Sharpe, CRIB Neighbourhood Ambassador; and Jheanelle Anderson, senior research assistant at The CRIB for another compelling panel discussion. The CRIB extends sincere thanks to everyone who attended and participated, including the survivors for telling their stories, StoryCentre Canada for collaborating with The CRIB on the project, and the Black Research Network (BRN), along with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for making the project and event possible.

Waiting to Inhale

CRIB FACULTY AFFILIATE, AKWASI OWUSU-BEMPAH CO-AUTHORS NEW BOOK

Congratulations are in order for CRIB Faculty Affiliate, Professor Akwasi Owusu-Bempah who recently co-authored a new book with cannabis industry leader, Tahira Rehmatullah, entitled, “Waiting to Inhale: Cannabis Legalization and the Fight for Racial Justice”. The book, which is published by MIT Press, examines how harsh cannabis laws have contributed to racial injustice – and how to repair the communities most affected. [Read the full story here](#), and [take a look at his interview about the book here](#).



Prof. Akwasi Owusu-Bempah, CRIB Faculty Affiliate and Associate Professor at U of T Mississauga

COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH FACULTY DISCUSSION CLUB

**COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH
FACULTY DISCUSSION CLUB**

INITIATING & NUTURING- *How Does a Community-Engaged Research Initiative Begin?*

November 17, 2023 | 10:00am - 12:45 pm
9 Kings College Circle, Toronto

Discussion Club Format

- Panel presentation on a focused theme by faculty members and community partners
- Lunch & moderated group discussion with opportunity to connect with peers

Dr. Tracey Galloway
Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, UTM

Dr. Sophie Roher
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Living Well House

Dr. Tanya Sharpe
Associate Professor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work

Mr. Deshawn Hibbert
Coordinator, Neighbourhood Ambassador Program, Centre for Research & Innovation for Black Survivors

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO | Centre for Research & Innovation Support | Centre for Community Partnerships

REGISTER: cris.utoronto.ca

On November 17th, Dr. Sharpe and Coordinator of The CRIB's Neighbourhood Ambassador Program, Mr. Deshawn Hibbert presented on "Community Engaged Principles in Research, Policy & Practice" at the Community Engaged Research Faculty Discussion Club. This presentation focused on The CRIB's core values and principles that inform our ability to design and implement culturally responsive research, policy, and practice in partnership with communities. The Faculty Discussion Club is designed to support those with an interest in deepening their theoretical and practical understanding of community-engaged research to connect with, and learn from, colleagues from across the tri-campus in order to strengthen both societal and scholarly impact. The CRIB thanks the Centre for Research & Innovation Support for inviting us to share with the wider university!



The CRIB extends congratulations to Faculty Affiliate Professor Llewellyn J. Cornelius on being selected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare!



30@8:30 SEASON 5 WRAPPED



STRANGE FRUIT

ADDRESSING THE VIOLENT ERASURE OF BLACK BODIES

For over 3 years, The CRIB has brought its popular Instagram Live Series 30@8:30 to over 10,000 people from over a dozen countries around the world. 30@8:30 creates a platform for The CRIB to have 30-minute candid conversations with interdisciplinary scholars and community service providers about structural inequities, homicide, trauma, and victimization that disproportionately impact some of our most vulnerable populations.

The CRIB was pleased to present its most recent programming - Season 5 of 30@8:30 entitled, “**Strange Fruit: Addressing the Violent Erasure of Black Bodies**”. Broadcasted live on September 27, the first episode of 30@8:30 featured CRIB faculty affiliate and assistant professor at the University of Toronto Mississauga, **Dr. Camisha Sibblis**, who spoke on the topic of “Policing Black Bodies”. The second episode went live on October 4 and featured doctoral candidate **Asia Ivey** from the University ...

of California Davis. Asia's episode "The Retelling of our Truths" centred around the erasure of Black history through book banning. Episode three, which aired on October 11 featured film producer and director, **Rico King** who spoke about his experience "Through the Looking Glass" as a filmmaker, activist and survivor. Episode four, took place on October 18 and featured CRIB faculty affiliate and associate professor at Boston College, **Dr. C. Shawn McGuffey** who

addressed the topic of "Individual, Community & Societal Consequences to the Policing of Black Bodies". Episode five, went live on October 25 and featured CRIB faculty affiliate, assistant professor at University of California Davis, **Dr. Shani Buggs**. Dr. Buggs spoke about the importance of "Research as Activism".

Episode six was recorded on November 1, with CRIB faculty affiliate and distinguished professor of Social Justice and Civil Rights Studies at the University of Georgia, **Dr. Llewellyn J. Cornelius** who offered insight relevant to how we can go about "Transforming Research into Policy and Practice". Our season finale culminated with all of our guests gathering together in a fruitful discussion about the "Root Causes, Consequences and Solutions" to the violent erasure of Black bodies. We at The CRIB are truly grateful for the support of all of our viewers and look forward to bringing you even more engaging, purposeful, and uplifting content - tune in for next season!



*Dr. Camisha Sibbilis;
Policing Black Bodies*



*Asia Ivey; The Retelling
of our Truths*



*Rico King;
Through the Looking
Glass*



*Dr. C. Shawn McGuffey;
Individual, Community &
Societal Consequences to
Policing Black Bodies*



*Dr. Shani Buggs;
Research as Activism*



*Dr. Llewellyn J.
Cornelius; Transforming
Research into Policy &
Practice*

AND WE'RE OFF... In the Aftermath - Leong Catalyst Grant



The CRIB is now set to launch the **In the Aftermath** project, funded through the Leong Centre Catalyst Grant award. The project will explore - 1) the impact of experiencing the murder of a family member and/or friend on young ACB survivors' (ages 12-16) wellbeing; 2) how young ACB survivors cope with the murder of their family member(s) and friend(s); and 3) what young ACB

survivors need to help them cope with the murder of their family member(s) and friend(s). Findings from this study will facilitate the broader objective of generating culturally responsive approaches and knowledge vital to meeting the needs of this overrepresented yet under-researched population. For more information about the **In the Aftermath** project, please do not hesitate to contact us at – CRIBintheaftermath@gmail.com.

Meet our In the Aftermath Project Coordinator!

Ayssa Scipio is a registered Social Worker and graduated from the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work program at the University of Toronto in 2022. Prior to that, she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Toronto Metropolitan University (previously known as Ryerson University) in 2016. Ayssa's passion for social justice was sparked in the early years of her career where...



she worked with a local non-profit based in Regent Park that provided diversion programming to youth involved in the court system. It was there where Ayssa was truly able to see the overrepresentation of BIPOC youth in the system first-hand. Today, Ayssa remains passionate about social and criminal justice, but her passion has widened to include mental health. In addition to working with The CRIB, Ayssa has her own private practice. She has co- led mental health research projects with Canadian post-secondary institutions to inform institutional policies and programs. Ayssa has also spent the past several years working in clinics and hospitals across the city in various mental health-related positions.



The CRIB is located within the number one ranked university in Canada (University of Toronto) and more specifically within the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, which is ranked second in the world among schools of social work according to the Center for World University Rankings.

[Make a Gift to The CRIB](#)

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