

## PRESENTER & FACILITATOR BIOS

### **Dr. Jasmine Abrams** (she/her)

Yale University School of Public Health, Presidential Research Fellow

Dr. Jasmine Abrams (she /her) is an international behavioural research scientist and Presidential Research Fellow at the Yale University School of Public Health. Dr. Abrams has 15 years of experience conducting health equity research with community-based and health service organizations to understand and promote sexual and maternal health among Black women across the African Diaspora, including women in the United States, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Brazil. With a multimillion-dollar funding portfolio, Dr. Abrams has secured numerous federal funding awards to support her work, including funding from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institute of Minority Health Disparities, National Institutes of Mental Health, and Fogarty International Center. An engaging and highly sought-after speaker, Dr. Abrams has delivered presentations about promoting global health equity, intersectionality in public health research, achieving success in academia, and academic entrepreneurship to numerous universities and private organizations. As a serial entrepreneur, Dr. Abrams is co-founder of Research Unlimited and founder of the Thrive Institute for Professional Development, a science-driven company focused on inspiring success and wellness among researchers via transformative training and international retreat experiences.

### **Dr. Rodrigo Aguayo-Romero** (they/them)

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Rodrigo Aguayo-Romero (they/them) is a Research Scientist at the Whitman-Walker Institute. They recently completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Transgender Health Research at Brigham and Women's Hospital, with affiliations at Harvard Medical School and the Fenway Institute. They are the co-chair of the joint task force of the American Psychological Association's Division 44 and the Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity revising the *Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming People*. They are a clinical-psychologist by training and their research focuses on understanding how intersectional experiences of discrimination faced by gender, sexual, ethno-racial, and socioeconomically disadvantaged groups impact health overall. Their research examines risk behaviors and health disparities—with an emphasis on HIV—using epidemiologic quantitative methods and principles of Participatory Action Research. They draw from systems approaches that apply modified social-ecological models, intersectionality, and syndemics frameworks. They are establishing a research agenda addressing health disparities among Latinx sexual and gender minorities in the Americas starting with the United States, Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador.

### **Dr. Floretta Boonzaier** (she/her)

University of Cape Town Professor in Psychology & Co-Director of the Hub for Decolonial Feminist Psychologies in Africa

Floretta Boonzaier is a Professor at the Department of Psychology, University of Cape Town, South Africa and Co-Director of the *Hub for Decolonial Feminist Psychologies in Africa*. She is noted for her work in feminist, critical and decolonial psychologies, her writing on intersectional subjectivities and on gendered and sexual violence. She is also noted for her expertise in qualitative methodologies, specifically in narrative and participatory approaches. Her selected recent publications include the book *Pan-Africanism and Psychology in Decolonial Times* (authored with Kessi and Gekeler) published by Springer (2022); the edited collection *Men, Masculinities*

and *Intimate Partner Violence* (with Gottzén & Bornholt) published by Routledge (2020); and the recent paper featured in *Current Sociology* entitled: *Spectacularising narratives on femicide in South Africa: A decolonial feminist analysis*.

**Devon Carbado** (he/him)

UCLA School of Law, Honorable Harry Pregerson Professor of Law

Devon Carbado is the Honorable Harry Pregerson and Distinguished Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law. He has twice served as a vice dean at the law school and is the former inaugural Associate Vice Chancellor for Equity Diversity and Inclusion for the broader UCLA university. He writes in the area of racial justice and the law, with a particular focus on intersectionality, employment discrimination, constitutional law, and constitutional criminal procedure. His scholarship appears in law reviews at, among institutions, UCLA, University of California, Berkeley, Harvard, Michigan, and Yale. He is the editor and author of several books, including *The Long Walk to Freedom: Runaway Slaves Narratives* (with Donald Weise) (Beacon Press), *Black Men on Race, Gender, and Sexuality: A Reader* (NYU Press) *Acting White? Rethinking Race in Post-Racial American* (with Mitu Gulati) (Oxford University Press), and *Unreasonable: Black Lives, Police Power, and the Fourth Amendment* (New Press). He has received the law school's Rutter of Award for Excellence in Teaching, is a two-time recipient of the Professor of the Year Award from the law school, and received UCLA's highest distinction—the University's Distinguished Teaching Award, the Edby Award for the Art of Teaching.

**Dr. Marcia Thereza Couto** (she/her)

University of São Paulo (USP) Associate Professor

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5233-4190>

Marcia Thereza Couto (Ph.D. in Sociology) is an Associate Professor at the Department of Preventive Medicine (Public Health), School of Medicine, University of São Paulo, focusing on gender and class inequalities in her academic work. She is also a researcher at CNPq (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, Brazil). In addition, she is an undergraduate and post-graduate professor at USP School of Medicine, dissertation and thesis advisor, and Brazilian scientific journals assistant editor. She has published in the following areas: intersectionality, HIV prevention, vaccine hesitancy and other cultural aspects of the illness-disease process, using the qualitative methodology approach.

**Dr. Nakia Lee-Foon** (she/her)

Learning Health Systems Research Associate at the Institute for Better Health, Trillium Health Partners in Mississauga Ontario

Dr. Nakia Lee-Foon is the inaugural Learning Health Systems Research Associate at the Institute for Better Health, Trillium Health Partners in Mississauga Ontario. She holds a Ph.D. in the Social and Behavioural Health Sciences stream from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH), University of Toronto. Her award-winning doctoral research explored the state of young, self-identified African, Caribbean and Black gay and other young men who have sex with men's sexual health literacy in Toronto, Ontario. Nakia completed her Master of Health Sciences with a specialization in Community Health from Ontario Tech University. Her master's thesis explored the state of Black-Canadian parent-youth sexual health communication in Toronto. She has sat on the board of directors for the Black Health Alliance and Planned Parenthood Toronto. Dr. Lee-Foon has also conducted work focused on health equity, mental health in Black communities and increasing breast and cervical cancer

awareness among self-identified Black women. She has taught various aspects of public health at the community, secondary and post-secondary levels.

**Dr. Nandini Ghosh** (she/her)

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Institute of Development Studies Kolkata

Nandini Ghosh is Faculty at the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata. Her areas of interest are qualitative research methodology, sociology of gender, marginalization and social exclusion and social movements. She has published a monograph *Impaired Bodies Gendered Lives: Everyday Realities of Disabled Women* (Primus Books 2016) and co-authored a book on domestic violence titled *The Violent Domestic: Law, its Practice, and Strategies of Survival*. She has edited a volume titled *Interrogating Disability in India: Theory and Practice* (Springer 2016). She also has co-edited two books, *Pratyaha Everyday Lifeworlds: Dilemmas, Contestations and Negotiations* (Primus 2015) and *Caste and Gender in Contemporary India: Power, Privilege and Politics* (Routledge 2018). She has published widely on issues around gender, disability, law and politics in well-known peer-reviewed journals.

**Dr. Sophia Zamudio-Haas** (she/her)

University of California, San Fransisco, Assistant Professor, Medicine

Dr. Zamudio-Haas' research interests focus on increasing access and uptake of HIV prevention and treatment services for most affected populations in the US and globally, including gender and sexual minorities, people who inject drugs, and young women and girls. Engaging qualitative and community-informed methods, as well as quality improvement strategies, her work focuses on generating innovations and adapting care programs to meet the needs of marginalized populations, with the goal of reducing HIV health disparities. Dr. Zamudio-Haas has an interdisciplinary background. She received her MSc in Global Health and Population and Harvard School of Public Health in 2008 and a DrPH from University of California, Berkley in 2013. She is trilingual in Spanish, Portuguese, and English. Her current work focuses on increasing access to culturally tailored and population-specific HIV prevention and care services for transgender women in the US and Brazil.

**Humanities 101 Team**

University of Alberta

**Lynn Wade** (she/her) started shared experience learning through HUM in 2012. Every semester, she enthusiastically uses her newfound knowledge to help bring diverse communities together.

**Beverly Letawsky** (she/her) has been a lifelong learner and a participant in Humanities 101 at the University of Alberta since September 2016.

**Bonita Bohnet** (she/her) is a Métis woman from the Northwest Territories. She is currently completing her third year of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Native Studies at the University of Alberta. Bonita is a former Humanities 101 participant and has been the Intern for the program for the past two years.

**Ian Young** (he/him) perceives learning as living, if obstacles get in his way, he learns to overcome them, an active member in advocacy, he learns the most from human experience past and present.

**Lisa Prins** (she/her) has been working, learning, and playing as the University of Alberta Humanities 101 Coordinator with Community Service-Learning for over a decade.

**Dr. Sune Qvotrup Jensen** (he/him)

Aalborg University Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Work

Sune Qvotrup Jensen holds a Ph.D. in Gender Studies and is an Associate Professor in Sociology at the Department of Sociology and Social Work, Aalborg University, Denmark. His main research areas include gender, masculinity, intersectionality, extremism and radicalization, subculture, and urban studies. His most important publications include "Othering, identity formation and agency" in *Qualitative Studies* (2011), "Doing intersectional analysis: Methodological implications for qualitative research" in *NORA-Nordic Journal of Feminist and Gender Research* (2012, with Ann-Dorte Christensen), and "Combining hegemonic masculinity and intersectionality," in *ORMA: International Journal for Masculinity Studies* (2014, with Ann-Dorte Christensen).

**Dr. Isabel Altamirano-Jimenez** (she/her)

University of Alberta Professor & Canada Research Chair in Comparative Indigenous Feminist Studies

Isabel Altamirano-Jimenez is Binizá, professor of political science and Canada Research Chair in Comparative Indigenous Feminist Studies at the University of Alberta. Her research bridges conversations across North/Latin America and examines how different modalities of resource extraction are felt and experienced. She has developed an original body-land methodological framework for theorizing how the gendered effects of natural resource extraction is felt at multiple levels. Through an empirical exploration of two case studies – the Northwest Territories in Canada and Oaxaca, Mexico – her research documents how transnational resource extraction intersects bodies, homes, communities, and territories.

**Dr. Anusha Kassan** (she/her)

The University of British Columbia Associate Professor, High Impact Position in Child & Youth Mental Health

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7614-9034>

I am currently located on the Treaty 7 Region in Southern Alberta and Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. My pronouns are she/her. I am an associate professor with a high-impact position in child and youth mental health in the School and Applied Child Psychology program at the University of British Columbia. I graduated from the Counselling Psychology program at McGill University and completed my Pre-Doctoral Internship in Professional Psychology at the University of California, Irvine Counselling Center. Upon graduating, I held a Visiting Assistant Professor Position in the Counselling Psychology program at the University of British Columbia. Subsequently, I was an Assistant and Associate Professor in Educational Studies in Counselling Psychology at the University of Calgary. My program of research is influenced by my own bicultural identity and is informed by an overarching social justice lens. I am presently studying the impact of immigration across different communities. I am also conducting teaching and learning research, investigating cultural and social justice responsiveness in professional psychology. I have been immersed in qualitative research for the past twenty years, and I am very passionate about bringing lived experiences to the forefront, particularly when those experiences have been socio-politically marginalized. I am excited to share the origin, development, and application of an Arts-Based Engagement Ethnography with workshop attendees.

**Dr. Leah Levac** (she/her)

University of Guelph Associate Professor, Political Science and Canada Research Chair in Critical Community Engagement and Public Policy

Leah Levac (she/her) is a settler scholar and associate professor in the political science department at the University of Guelph. She is also a Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Critical Community Engagement and Public Policy. As a community-engaged scholar, she strives to use an intersectional and anticolonial approach to research collaborations to create more equitable policy processes and outcomes, with the aim of addressing the ongoing effects of colonialism, sexism, racism and other structural injustices. She is committed to building reciprocal and collaborative research relationships with community partners to respond to policy-related needs. She has published several academic and public outputs, including an edited collection with Dr. Sarah Marie Wiebe (*Creating Spaces of Engagement: Policy Justice and the Practical Craft of Deliberative Democracy*, 2020), several journal articles and book chapters, and many technical research reports, research fact sheets, and other clear language outputs. Leah lives in Guelph, Ontario with her partner, their toddler, and their dog. She is the proud mom of two great kids and an avid lover of the forest.

**Harlan Pruden** (anything said mindfully and respectfully)

University of British Columbia Indigenous Knowledge Translation Lead at Chee Mamuk Indigenous Public Health Program, BC Center for Disease and Control Clinical Prevention Services

Harlan Pruden is Nehiyô/First Nations Cree who works with and for the Two-Spirit community locally, nationally, and internationally. Harlan is a co-founder of the Two-Spirit Dry Lab and the Indigenous Knowledge Translation Lead at Chee Mamuk, an Indigenous health program at the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control. Harlan is also the Managing Editor of TwoSpiritJournal.com and an advisory member for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's Institute of Gender and Health.

**Maskwacis Research Group**

University of Alberta

The Maskwacis Maternal, Child & Family Wellbeing (MMCFW) Research Group is a partnership with Maskwacis Elders, community leaders, maternal health leads and University of Alberta researchers. Our goal is to develop and evaluate strengths-based, community-led, and culturally-informed strategies to support families during pre-conception, pregnancy, infancy and early childhood.

**Denise Young (she/her)** Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences, is an Ermineskin Cree Nation Member from Treaty Six Territory and a community research assistant. She is passionate about improving the health and well-being of families and children in her home community of Maskwacis. Through MMCFW Research Group she is able to do this through Cree culture, knowledge sharing, language, and initiatives that serve the needs of the community.

**Luwana Listener (she/her)** is a community-based research assistant, working with and for Maskwacis. The projects she has been involved with include working with mature women's wellness, intergenerational cohesion, Indigenous gender and wellness, pregnancy and maternal health.

**Adam Purificati-Fuñe (him/he)**, born on Treaty 6 Territory, is of mixed Filipino-European ancestry, is the Deadly Dads' helper, and a Master's student from the University of Alberta on the MMCFW team.

**Winnie Chow-Horn (her/she)** is a first generation Chinese-Canadian has over 30 years as a community activist, community-based researcher, educator, and senior executive in the charitable sector working with racialized and

Indigenous communities. She brings this diversity of experience in her role as the Research Associate, for the I-HeLTI Cohort study at the University of Alberta.

**Richard Oster (him/he)** is the Scientific Director, Indigenous Wellness Core, in Alberta Health Services and also a Research Associate at the University of Alberta.

**Dr. Cristiane Spadacio (she/her)**

Cristiane Spadacio earned her Social Sciences (2005), Master's (2008) and Ph.D. (2013) degrees in Collective Health at the University of Campinas (Brazil), and held a Postdoctoral position in Public Health at the Faculty of Public Health at the University of Sao Paulo (2014). Dr. Spadacio is an experienced qualitative health researcher, having worked in the areas of intersectionality, HIV prevention, and social determinants of health. She has developed teaching in the area of collective health; health policies; prevention and health promotion; and research methodology, with a focus on qualitative approaches. She is interested in the development of qualitative research in the area of health using a theoretical-conceptual framework from the social sciences, and in the fields of Primary Health Care (PHC) and Intersectionality.

**Dr. Denise L. Spitzer (she/her/elle)**  
University of Alberta, School of Public Health

Denise L. Spitzer Ph.D., (she/her/elle) is a Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta and an Adjunct Professor in the Institute of Feminist and Gender Studies at the University of Ottawa, where, from 2005-2015, she was the Canada Research Chair in Gender, Migration and Health and Principal Scientist in the Institute of Population Health. In addition to undergraduate studies in Biology, Chinese Language, and Music, she holds a Master's degree and doctorate in Anthropology from the University of Alberta. Engaging in participatory research with migrant communities around the world, Dr. Spitzer is interested in examining how global processes, mediated through intersectionality, are implicated in health and wellbeing. She is the recipient of 41 research grants as principal investigator and 39 as co-investigator. Her edited collection, *Engendering Migrant Health: Canadian Perspectives* (University of Toronto Press, 2011) was cited as one of the best policy books of 2011 by the Hill Times and was awarded a WGSRF Outstanding Scholarship citation by the Women's and Gender Studies Association in 2013.

**Dr. Saran Stewart (she/her)**

Associate Professor and Director of Global Education, University of Connecticut Hartford

Saran Stewart, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor and Director of Global Education at the Neag School of Education, as well as Director for Academic Affairs at UConn Hartford. She was formerly a Senior Lecturer and Deputy Dean at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. Dr. Stewart's research examines issues in comparative education, decolonizing methodologies, critical/ inclusive pedagogy and access and equity issues in higher education. She is an Ohio State University, Quallab Faculty Fellow, a Salzburg Global Fellow and the recipient of multiple awards including the 2019 Vice Chancellor Award for Excellence from the University of the West Indies and the 2018 African Diaspora Emerging Scholar award by the Comparative and International Education Society. She is the editor of *Decolonizing Qualitative Methodologies for and by the Caribbean* (Information Age Publishing) and co-editor of *Race, Equity and the Learning Environment: The Global Relevance of Critical and Inclusive Pedagogies in Higher Education* (Stylus). Most recently she co-authored several book chapters and seminal articles on intersectionality methodologies and has delivered numerous presentations and workshops on critical methodologies.

**Ryan Stillwagon (he/they)**

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia

Ryan Stillwagon is a UBC Public Scholar and Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of British Columbia. Their dissertation work explores queer food security in Canada. They have published work on queer place-making and sexual health in the *Journal of Indigenous HIV Research, City & Community, The Conversation, Contexts*, and *JMIR Public Health and Surveillance*.

**Dr. Daniel Turner** (he/him)  
Quirkos Founder and Director

Dr. Daniel Turner is the founder and director of Quirkos, and an experienced researcher and trainer in qualitative health. After gaining a Ph.D. in Human Geography from the University of Sheffield, Daniel worked as a postdoctoral scholar looking at health systems, long-term conditions and inequality in health provision. He created Quirkos to make it easier to explore and analyze qualitative data, including as part of the participatory analysis and co-produced research.

**Dr. Bilkis Vissandjée** (she/her)

Professor in School of Nursing and Research Associate in CReSP, University of Montreal

Bilkis Vissandjée PhD. is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) within which she participates in the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee. She is a professor at the School of Nursing and a research associate in the Centre de recherche en santé publique (CReSP) at the University of Montreal. Dr. Vissandjée is part of one of the working groups with the 'One Sustainable Health' Initiative, a Forum led by the 'Sustainable Health for All' Foundation. Since 2020, Dr. Vissandjée is a member of the Advisory Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy within the Canada Research Chair Program. She currently leads the RHCforFGC - Gender-Net plus team grant funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research and the European Commission, one of 13 Gender-Net Plus consortia. RHCforFGC includes six teams based in Belgium, France, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Canada with a focus on the quality of care and prevention for women and girls who have experienced or may be at risk of female genital circumcision/mutilation in migrant-receiving countries. Dr Vissandjee was nominated in the 2020 Canadian Women Global Health List.