

E-Learning Series Live Discussion

**MOVING
THE DIAL**

2023 In Review

Throughout 2023, Community-Based Research Canada highlighted research projects that are utilizing a community-based approach to move the dial on pressing societal issues such as housing, climate change, and racial equity. We were delighted to highlight 10 action-oriented research projects as illustrations of how community-based research can mobilize people and communities towards positive societal change.

Our 2023 presentations included:

Jan

Moving the Dial on: Health Equity Advocacy through Community Mobilization & Solidarity
Presented by Dr. Ameil J. Joseph, McMaster University.



In the inaugural event of this series, Dr. Ameil J. Joseph shared the outcomes and impacts of community advocacy work to establish a clinic in Hamilton to prioritize hard to reach populations who were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 infection, such as Black, other racialized, and disabled populations. Dr. Joseph also highlighted various efforts he has engaged in to challenge systemic inequities through community solidarity building and mobilization as part of research.

Feb

Moving the Dial on: Social Inclusion and Waste Picker Rights
Presented by Dr. Jutta Gutberlet, University of Victoria.



In this event, Dr. Gutberlet shared the story of the international 'Mapping Waste Governance' project, which gives voice to generally marginalized waste pickers in various international contexts and sought to identify and document grassroots social innovations and challenges in waste governance. Dr. Gutberlet shared how this research project led to the creation of the University for and with Waste Pickers, the re-conceptualization of waste and waste management, and a shift towards waste governance that can address poverty reduction, build community resilience, and increase environmental sustainability.

Mar

Moving the Dial on: Building Indigenous Community Relationships
Presented by Dr. Cynthia Puddu, MacEwan University, and Cheyenne Greyeyes, Niginan Housing Ventures.



Niginan Housing Ventures (NHV) is a registered non-profit charity formed to address housing needs and requirements of Indigenous people living in Edmonton. This event described how using Indigenous Ways of Knowing within a community-based research project by NHV to understand how an Indigenous-led housing initiative could prevent Indigenous youth homelessness contributed to significant collaboration and relationships between researchers and community partners, fostering meaningful reciprocal relationships and leading to community change.

Apr

Moving the Dial on: Equity-Informed Approaches to the Climate Emergency
Presented by Dr. Sarah Marie Wiebe, University of Victoria & Kirsten Mah, Capital Regional District BC.



In the April event, Dr. Wiebe and Kirsten Mah described a collaborative and community-based research project addressing extreme heat in British Columbia. Details were shared on how this project utilized an equity-informed lens to amplify voices of those most vulnerable to negative health impacts of extreme heat and to generate recommendations to prepare for, respond to, and recover from extreme heat events in ways that account for equity and intersectionality.

May

Moving the Dial on: Housing Affordability & Advocacy
Presented by Salomeh Ahmadi, Humber College



This webinar delved into the community-based participatory research study "South Etobicoke Housing Affordability", led by Salomeh Ahmadi at Humber College, which focused on improving the health and wellbeing of the most marginalized populations facing housing affordability issues within a Southern Ontario urban area. Ahmadi explored the issues of housing affordability revealed within this project, and shared how research results are being leveraged to advocate for policy changes.

Jun

Moving the Dial on: Peer Support Work and "Escaping the Maze"
Presented by the Supporting Peer Work research team, George Brown College.



The June event shared findings and calls to action from a community-guided participatory action research project, Supporting Peer Work, that investigated how social service agencies engage with workers with lived/living expertise – also known as "peers". This dynamic and interactive event was presented by various members of the Supporting Peer Work team, including Dr. Griffin Epstein (they/them), Lindsay Jennings (she/her), Madelyn Gold (she/her), Marc-Andre Hermanstyne (he/him), Maria Scotton (they/them), and Suwaida Farah (she/her), each guiding participants through how workers with lived/living expertise can be better supported to do transformative and necessary work within social service agencies.

Sep

Moving the Dial on: Social Equity through Connectivity
Presented by Joel Templeman, Internet Society Manitoba Chapter; Ashton King, Computers for Schools Manitoba; and Shelley Anderson, Indigenous Vision for the North End



In September, a panel discussion occurred with members of the North End Connect project – a community-based participatory action research project aimed at understanding and developing solutions to problems caused by a lack of digital connectivity. Templeman, King, and Anderson reflected on their experiences within this research project and showcased the mobilization of research results to address inequities in connectivity in Winnipeg's North End community.

Oct

Moving the Dial on: Co-Creating Just Sustainabilities
Presented by Dr. Charles Levkoe & Dr. Lindsay Galway, Lakehead University



The Lake Superior Living Labs Network (LSLLN) is a nested network of living labs collaborating across the Lake Superior watershed with a goal of developing and expanding partnerships and place-based collaborative initiatives grounded in the Lake Superior watershed as a social-ecological system. Dr. Levkoe & Dr. Galway shared how LSLLN has built campus-community partnerships aimed at co-creating innovative solutions to complex challenges of social and environmental justice and sustainability through community-engaged research and action.

Nov

Moving the Dial on: Inclusive & Innovative Models for Refugee Health Equity
Presented by Astrid Velasquez, New Canadian's Health Centre, and Madeleine Kruth, University of Alberta



This event highlighted community-based participatory research in partnership with the Evaluation Capacity Network to establish and evaluate the New Canadians Health Centre, a centre in Edmonton Alberta that provides health and settlement services to government assisted refugees according to a principles-based model. Velasquez and Kruth spoke to the principles-based model of the centre, developed through community-based research, and to current community-based evaluation of services aimed at ensuring the sustainability of effective practices and contributing to the expanding body of evidence surrounding community-based health and social support for refugees.

Dec

Moving the Dial on: Support for Families Affected by Mental Illness
Presented by Dr. Charmaine C. Williams & Joelleann Forbes, RSW, University of Toronto.



The final event in this series highlighted the Family Caregiving project, a community-based research study exploring the experiences of families affected by mental illness. Dr. Williams & Joelleann Forbes spoke to the innovative research methods used, emphasizing intersectionality, empowerment, and choice in involving those diagnosed with mental illness and their family members within the research process. The project also created and disseminated a suite of resources for agencies to redefine family support and promote open discussions about how families manage caregiving and care-receiving. The project team is engaging in efforts to use research findings to advocate for policy change to the dial on support for families affected by mental illness.

We thank all those who presented in and attended the E-Learning events in this series and commend those utilizing community-based research as a tool for moving the dial on the pressing societal issues we are faced with.

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