



PEOPLE, PLACES, POLICIES AND PROSPECTS

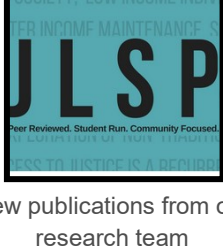
Affordable Rental Housing for Those in Greatest Need



Seasonal Newsletter

SUMMER 2021

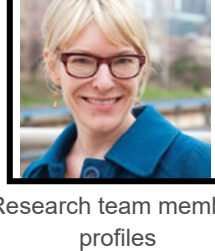
In This Edition



New publications from our research team



Successful Canada Foundation for Innovation application



Research team member profiles

National Project Update

It has been a busy summer for our researchers, community partners, and research assistants. This edition highlights three recent publications by team members, and details a new successful grant application to create a Community University Housing Research Lab. This issue also profiles another four members of our research team.

The publications highlighted here include a paper by Sarah Buhler on Pandemic Evictions and the Saskatchewan Office of Residential Tenancies, and an article by Dr. Brenda Parker and Dr. Catherine Leviten-Reid on the gendered nature of housing precarity and how this has been magnified by the pandemic. The final paper provides a neighbourhood analysis of public housing and market rental units in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. Find more information and links to the full articles below.

Article: Pandemic Evictions: An Analysis of the 2020 Eviction Decisions of Saskatchewan's Office of Residential Tenancies

Sarah Buhler recently published "Pandemic Evictions: An Analysis of the 2020 Eviction Decisions of Saskatchewan's Office of Residential Tenancies" in the Journal of Law and Social Policy (JLSP).



Article abstract: "On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic due to the COVID-19 virus. Saskatchewan's first COVID-19 case was detected the next day, and the Premier declared a provincial state of emergency a few days later. On 26 March 2020, the Government of Saskatchewan imposed a partial eviction moratorium, directing the Office of Residential Tenancies ("the ORT", Saskatchewan's housing law tribunal) to cease processing eviction applications for all but urgent situations involving risk to health or property. Saskatchewan's partial eviction moratorium was in place until 4 August 2020. On the day the partial moratorium was lifted, active COVID-19 cases were declining in Saskatchewan. However, the worst of the pandemic was still ahead: case numbers started rising in October, and COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in the province reached their peak for the year in mid-December. Eviction applications for all reasons were being processed by the ORT during the most serious and deadly phase of the pandemic. Between 1 January and 31 December 2020, over 1800 eviction cases were heard by the ORT. This study sought to understand the patterns and themes in these decisions and to answer several key questions including the following: What happened during the partial eviction moratorium and after it was lifted? Did the rising case numbers in the late fall of 2020 (after the partial moratorium was lifted) affect outcomes of eviction decisions made by the ORT? What other themes or patterns emerge in the decisions? The study included decisions from January, February, and March 2020 to help provide a "pre-pandemic" comparator data set for its findings and to be able to assess one entire calendar year of cases."

[See the full article here.](#)

Article: Pandemic Precarity and Everyday Disparity



Together Dr. Brenda Parker and Dr. Catherine Leviten-Reid published a new article called "Pandemic Precarity and Everyday Disparity: Gendered Housing Needs in North America" in the Journal of Housing and Society.

Article abstract: "We identify key issues for housing researchers, practitioners, and advocates working in the United States and Canada to consider, both during the COVID-19 pandemic and far beyond. First, we draw upon feminist and intersectional literatures on gendered inequalities and social structures, which provide the often forgotten or overlooked context for women's experiences in housing. This includes the broader insight that too frequently, women have not been involved in shaping the policy and planning climate around housing, even as they disproportionately are affected by them. Second, we describe women's housing-related precarity and some of its implications, grounding this research in a political economic critique of the way that housing and resources are allocated and the neoliberal climate that values profit over people and that has induced instability for many women in so many communities. We conclude by offering examples of organizations and initiatives that work to address the disparities identified herein. Throughout the paper, we emphasize the need for intersectional and interdisciplinary collaborations (for example, among queer, anti-racist, feminist, political economic, and other scholars) that engage with complexity and orient toward equity and justice."

In addition to the above article, Dr. Parker has also written a policy spotlight offering recommendations to policy makers looking to not only stem coming evictions (anticipated from the ending of COVID-related eviction moratoriums) but also to help women and families find long-term housing stability beyond the pandemic. [Read the full policy spotlight here.](#)

Article: Public Housing, Market Rentals and Neighbourhood Characteristics

This summer Dr. Catherine Leviten-Reid, Melanie Macdonald and Rebecca Matthew published a new article called "Public Housing, Market Rentals and Neighbourhood Characteristics" in The Canadian Geographer.



Article abstract: "Market-based rentals are increasingly prioritized as the tenure type through which to provide housing assistance to low-income households: it is argued that public housing places tenants in neighbourhoods with concentrated poverty, while the private sector is purported to offer households the opportunity to live in locations with less disadvantage. We test this assumption through a case study of a Nova Scotian municipality. Using chi-square tests to examine associations between housing type and neighbourhood deprivation, we find that while 47% of public units are located in places with high social and economic deprivation, one-third of market rentals are located in neighbourhoods with similar characteristics. In addition, in looking at the location of lower-cost market units in particular, we find limited differences in the neighbourhood characteristics in which these more affordable rentals and public housing are found. We argue for the importance of connecting policy and programming to place-based community development and poverty-reduction strategies to support low-income households." [See the full article here](#)

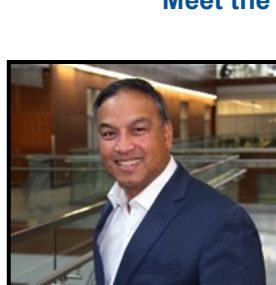
Grant Awarded: Housing Research Lab



We are pleased to announce a successful grant application to the Canada Foundation for Innovation for the development of a research lab in downtown Sydney, Nova Scotia, called the Community University Housing Research Lab. This Cape Breton University (CBU) lab will support both the Cape Breton-based and national components of this partnership grant, as well as other research projects including an Eastern Nova Scotian homelessness count (done in partnership with Mental Health and Addictions of Nova Scotia Health and nursing faculty at CBU) and a study of rental housing in partnership with the Guysborough County Housing Network.

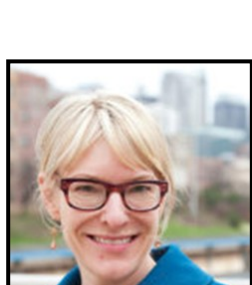
The site will be located in the New Dawn Centre for Social Innovation. The dedicated lab will provide office space for research assistants, meeting space for community partners, and research equipment for students and partner organizations. Its location also provides an accessible, off-campus location to support community-engaged research.

Meet the Team: Researcher and Student Profiles



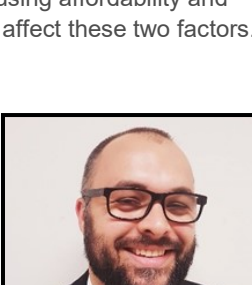
Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine is a professor in Community Health and Epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan and Director of the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit. He is also a former academic director and current management board member of the Community-University Institute of Social Research (CUISR). He is widely recognized for his work in child health, inequalities, neighbourhood effects, and quality of life.

Dr. Brenda Parker is an associate professor of Urban Planning and Policy at the University of Illinois-Chicago and is an expert in gender and human geography. Dr. Parker assists team members in using a Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens in their regional and national projects and will work with the synthesis committee to identify cross-regional findings based on GBA+. She also serves on the national steering committee to ensure this focus is maintained throughout the partnership grant.

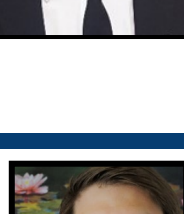


Miri Miri Haleh is a second-year master's student in Women's, Gender and Sexualities Studies at the University of Saskatchewan and a newly joined member of CUISR. In addition to the current project, People, Places, Policies, and Prospects: Affordable Rental Housing for Those in Greatest Need, she has been an active member of Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE) at the University of Saskatchewan. Through GBA+, she is mainly concerned with the interplay between housing affordability and gender and how systems can affect these two factors.

Mathieu Samson-Savage is a doctoral researcher and part-time lecturer at the University of Ottawa's School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies, and is a research assistant with the Ottawa-based team. He is interested in social inequalities and processes of advanced marginalization/social exclusion. He currently studies the schooling experiences of homeless youth in Ottawa. He is a member of the Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa, Horizon Ottawa, as well as other community groups that advocate for a collective response to the Canadian and international housing crisis and homelessness.



If you or your organization has an announcement or project you would like shared, please reach out to William Roy, our National Project Coordinator, at coordinator@cbu.ca. We can help share your news and increase the reach of important work being done in the housing sector by all of our community and academic partners.



If you would like to unsubscribe to this newsletter and other communication from coordinator@cbu.ca, please reply to this email and request to unsubscribe.

This research and its dissemination is made possible by SSHRC and CMHC



Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

