RESEARCHING THE CITY
SHOWCASERS + STORYTELLERS
SFU VANCOUVER OPEN HOUSE // OCT 12, 2016
SHOWCASERS

An Innovative Partnership for Improving Children’s Mental Health

BIOGRAPHY

We are an interdisciplinary research group in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University. We focus on improving social and emotional wellbeing for all children, and on the public policies needed to reach these goals.

SYNOPSIS

Mental disorders affect an estimated 13% of children in BC, or 84,000 at any given time. Yet nearly 70% of children with mental disorders do not receive the interventions they need. To address this stark shortfall — an unprecedented child health and child rights problem — the Children’s Health Policy Centre at SFU has developed an innovative partnership with policymakers at the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development. This is the Ministry responsible for providing children’s mental health services across the province.

Our unique partnership aims to improve the social and emotional wellbeing of BC’s children. We achieve this by identifying high quality research evidence, using systematic review methods. We then summarize this evidence in: 1) commissioned policy research reports and 2) the Children’s Mental Health Research Quarterly, a free online publication. We augment these publications with frequent talks and educational sessions to assist policymakers and practitioners in applying the research.

For policymakers, the partnership provides ready access to research to inform decision-making — evidenced in BC’s landmark mental health plans in 2003 and 2010, both involving substantive new investments for children. For practitioners, advocates and families, our work provides an up-to-date resource on effective interventions. And for us as researchers, the collaboration constitutes an ongoing laboratory, continuously informing our work. Our experience shows that researchers can sustain creative ways of working with policymakers — to achieve common goals for children. In summary, our ongoing collaboration has created both an innovative partnership and practical tools for improving the wellbeing of BC’s children.

AUTHORS

• Donna Yung
• Caitlyn Andres
• Christine Schwartz
• Daphne Gray-Grant
• Charlotte Waddell
Connecting Nonprofit Leaders with Scholarly Research

**BIOGRAPHIES**

Baharak Yousefi is Head of Library Communications at SFU and Vice-Chair on the Board of the BC Libraries Cooperative. She received a Master of Arts in Women’s Studies in 2003 and a Master of Library and Information Studies in 2007. She lives on unceded Coast Salish Territories in Vancouver, BC.

Heather De Forest is a librarian in SFU Library’s Research Commons. She holds an MA from Queen’s (2000) and an MLIS from UBC (2005). Her work aligns around professional interests in inclusion, communities of practice, and scholarly communication.

**SYNOPSIS**

Innovative ideas build on existing knowledge and information. The Community Scholars project is a pilot partnership of the SFU Library, Mindset Innovation Foundation, and publishers SAGE and Springer. The publishers have allowed the Library to extend access to their journals to 100 community nonprofits --and BC’s nonprofit leaders working in social, cultural, and environmental arenas have responded. Through workshops, consultations, online courses and a journal club, we are collaboratively creating the conditions under which academic knowledge can be applied on the frontlines, by practitioners and influencers. Knowledge is power... to innovate!

Better Protect of the Brain

**BRAINSHIELD**

**BIOGRAPHY**

Daniel Abram, PhD, PEng, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering, SFU. He is a professional engineer (PEng) with expertise in design, testing, optimization, and product development. Daniel is an award winning researcher with over 20 publications including book chapter, patent, journals, and conferences. Daniel received his PhD in mechanical design and optimization from the University of New Brunswick in 2008. In the last six years, he has played a key role in developing, testing, and manufacturing BrainShield.

**SYNOPSIS**

After 6 years of research and development at Head Injury Prevention Lab at the school of Mechatronic Systems Engineering, a micro-engineered membrane is developed called BrainShield TM (world patent pending), this invention significantly reduces the rotational and linear acceleration of the head upon an impact; both kinds of acceleration are considered by many researchers to be a significant factor in head injury and concussion. Shield-X Technology Inc founded in 2014 to pursue commercialization of BrainShield. Currently, Shield-X is now working with major helmet manufacturers in the US to equipped their next generation of their helmets with BrainShield.

#SFUINNOVATES
Mapping Metro Vancouver to Support Housing First Implementation

**SARAH CANHAM**

Dr. Sarah Canham is a social gerontologist, researcher, and educator. She joined the Gerontology Research Centre at Simon Fraser University in May 2014 where she pursues investigations of the impact of the environment on individual outcomes, along with mental health, substance use, sleep problems, and loneliness in later life.

**SYNOPSIS**

In order to inform the delivery of Housing First in Metro Vancouver, an understanding of the system of support services as it currently exists is needed. Guided by principles of community-based participatory research, housing and shelter providers, frontline workers, and clients (n=215) participated in 13 mapping workshops throughout Metro Vancouver and identified services available in their communities by placing sticky notes on pre-printed maps, generating visual representations of where housing support services were located in their community and where gaps exist. Thematic analysis revealed diverse perspectives, identifying system challenges and gaps throughout Metro Vancouver. This information is crucial in advocating for increased government and community support.

**OTHER AUTHORS**

- Lupin Battersby
- Mineko Wada
- Rebecca Bell
- Mei Lan Fang
- Andrew Sixsmith

Impact of Residential Transition and a “Home-Like” Built Environment on Residents’ Health in Long-Term Care Settings

**MINEKO WADA**

Mineko Wada is a postdoctoral researcher at the Gerontology Research Centre at Simon Fraser University. Focusing on activities and their socially constructed meanings, she explores how older adults present themselves in online dating settings and how caregivers and care recipients experience living or working in home-like long-term care facilities.

**SYNOPSIS**

This study evaluated how residents, their family members, and care staff experienced and perceived relocating from an institutional facility to a “home-like” care setting in Western Canada. Over two years, 209 interviews were conducted with residents, family members, and care staff and thematically analyzed. This presentation focuses on three areas of residents’ health that were impacted by the transition and/or the new “home-like” care setting: physical health, mental health, and social health. We will discuss how the built environment and “home-like” care contributed to the impact on residents and what is needed to create and reinforce “home-like” care settings that promote residents’ health.

**OTHER AUTHORS**

- Sarah Canham
- Lupin Battersby
- Mei Lan Fang
- Andrew Sixsmith
AGE-WELL Innovative Workshops

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TOWARDS EFFECTIVE KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION OUTCOMES

AUTHORS
• Mei Lan Fang
• Lupin Battersby
• Rhona Dulay
• Sylvain Moreno
• Andrew Sixsmith

BIOGRAPHY

Mei Lan Fang, MPH is an Academic Fellow in Communications and Community Engagement with AGE-WELL NCE and a Researcher at the Gerontology Research Centre at SFU. Currently, she is working on completing her doctoral thesis hosted at Heriot-Watt University (Scotland) where she is supported by a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship to explore place histories of older people.

SYNOPSIS

Knowledge translation and commercialization of academically derived assistive technologies often rests in ‘latent phase,’ as it is not in the primary interest of academics. Navigating through knowledge mobilization and commercialization paths can be a long, arduous process that is not intuitive and requires a specialized skillset to optimize successful outcomes. AGE-WELL NCE (Aging Gracefully across Environments using Technology to Support Wellness, Engagement and Long Life), a Canadian Networks Centres of Excellence, has explored and implemented a number of strategies for addressing this gap. To implement knowledge mobilization and commercialization strategies effectively requires the synchronization of experiences and working practices of diverse members of the network (e.g. scientists, engineers, clinicians, businesspeople, policymakers, older adults, and students).

This presentation will introduce a service developed by a group of translational researchers working on implementing and evaluating techniques for supporting knowledge mobilization and commercialization. Originally developed for AGE-WELL NCE, we illustrate how our Innovation Workshop can be organized and tailored to address the specific objectives and needs for broader communities. To effectively mobilize knowledge and commercialize products and services in complex areas, it is important that members work together to create new solutions to wicked problems. The aim of our Innovation Workshop is to introduce and apply methods of transdisciplinary working, a nuanced, collective working approach for developing effective strategies to enhance knowledge mobilization and commercialization. This presentation demonstrates how Innovation Workshops developed under principles of transdisciplinarity helped create practical solutions for improving research, training, knowledge transfer and commercial outcomes.
Implementation of a User-led Neighbourhood Built Environmental Audit Tool for People with Disability

STAKEHOLDER WALKABILITY/WHEELABILITY AUDIT IN NEIGHBOURHOODS: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY (SWAN-PWD)

ATIYA MAHMOOD

Atiya Mahmood, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Gerontology at Simon Fraser University. Her training is in Environmental Gerontology and her research focuses on health and built environments for older adults. She is a co-investigator in the mobility team of the SSHRC-funded Canadian Disability Participation Project (CDPP).

CATHERINE BIGONNESSE

Catherine Bigonnesse is a Ph.D. candidate at the gerontology department at Simon Fraser University. Her research focuses on how innovative housing for older adults and the neighbourhood context influence the aging-in-place process. Catherine works as a research trainee for the Mobility team of the SSHRC-funded Canadian Disability Participation Project.

TANVEER MAHAL

Tanveer Mahal is a 4th year BSc. student in Kinesiology at Simon Fraser University. She hopes to pursue a career in physiotherapy and clinical research regarding older adults. Tanveer works as a research assistant for the Mobility team of the SSHRC-funded Canadian Disability Participation Project.

SYNOPSIS

Mobility is linked to independence, health and quality of life among people with mobility disability. Documentation of barriers and facilitators in their neighbourhood built environment by mobility assistive device users themselves can enable them to vocalize and advocate their needs for appropriate neighbourhood design to support mobility and social participation. In this study done in Metro Vancouver (Vancouver, North Vancouver, New Westminster), 24 participants with mobility disability collected data in their neighbourhoods using the "SWAN-PWD", an 89 items, user-led neighbourhood environmental audit tool. Preliminary results indicate that physical barriers such as design and maintenance of curb cuts, terrain and width of sidewalks, temporary and permanent obstacles limit mobility. Social factors such as the behaviours toward assistive device users and people being helpful support mobility and social participation of mobility assistive device users. This audit tool is a resource for people with mobility disability and stakeholders to initiate changes in their communities.
Starting Early, Improving Child Wellbeing

BC HEALTHY CONNECTIONS PROJECT SCIENTIFIC TEAM

NICOLE CATHERINE

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Nicole Catherine is Adjunct Professor and Mowafaghian University Research Associate with the Children’s Health Policy Centre in the Faculty of Health Sciences at SFU. She is also Scientific Director and Co-Principal Investigator of the BC Healthy Connections Project (BCHCP).

SYNOPSIS

At any given time, an estimated 13% of children – or nearly 84,000 in BC – are affected by mental health disorders. Two thirds do not receive treatment, so disorders tend to persist into adulthood, with negative consequences. The BC Healthy Connections Project or BCHCP aims to address this. Running 2011–2021, the BCHCP involves an innovative policy-practice-research collaboration with the BC Government, five regional Health Authorities and SFU – with partners from McMaster, UBC and the University of Victoria. The goal is to prevent childhood problems starting very early in life – during pregnancy. To achieve this goal, we are evaluating whether a nurse-home visitation program, the Nurse-Family Partnership or NFP, is more effective than existing health and social services in improving children’s mental health, and also mother’s life situations. We are learning from the experiences of hundreds of young BC women who are parenting for the first-time and who are experiencing hardships such as limited income, limited education or homelessness. Public health nurses are delivering NFP to a random sample of women, following them until their children turn two. At the same time, the SFU research team is connecting with the (nearly 1,000) families in the study through six interviews – documenting their lives and experiences throughout pregnancy and the children’s early years. The BCHCP is providing real-time, pragmatic evidence for policymakers and practitioners who need to act – to determine whether NFP’s potential benefits support larger scale up, with the ultimate goal of improving children’s mental health and development in BC and Canada.

Website: childhealthpolicy.ca
Kudoz

AN ADULT LEARNING EXCHANGE, ESPECIALLY FOR FOLKS WITH COGNITIVE DISABILITY

LAURA CUTHBERT

BIOGRAPHY
Laura Cuthbert is an Experience Curator in Kudoz. She is frequently wrangling hosts and arranging experiences. Her job is to find awesome people in the community and turn their passions into great learning experiences. Originally a disability sector staff, Laura is a fun lady who loves a good joke more than most things. If you’re stuck in an elevator with her, you’re bound to talk about history, abandoned places of British Columbia, and linguistics. She’s also a huge believer in Growth Mindset.

SYNOPSIS
Kudoz was born out of a 3-month ethnographic research in a social housing complex in Burnaby. We learned that people are not socially isolated, but what they lack is meaningful and novel experiences that help them grow and develop as people. Kudoz connects passionate people in the community who volunteer their time to share their know-how to adults living with cognitive disability. Kudoz is now 2 years old and has been shortlisted in an International Service Design Award and is used as a case study all around the world for an innovative adult learning platform.

People oriented design to maximize the return on public investments

SAMUEL BARON

BIOGRAPHY
Slow Streets is an Urban Design and Planning group that collects observational data on people and how they use our streets. Using this empirical data, we develop solutions that will generate more productive and sustainable places through urban design. Darren Proulx and Samuel Baron are the principals and the co-founders of Slow Streets.

SYNOPSIS
Streets account for a large portion of our public space, yet their current purpose is to move vehicles through quickly. Are we maximizing the social, economic and environmental return on public investments if our street designs emphasize fast moving vehicles? Our research focuses on highlighting ways to use public assets more productively to generate a greater return on investment. We believe that strategic city building practices can help cities achieve long term economic viability, since automobile infrastructure is expensive to build and maintain and we do so at the expense of allowing other ways to get around. This also erodes people’s enjoyment of their cities. Since everyone has to eventually start and end their trip walking, our research demonstrates that current street design practices often discourage higher business revenue potential by not creating a comfortable and safe environment that invites more people to walk and cycle.

DARREN PROULX

SHOWCASERS
RESEARCHING THE CITY
Capturing Our Stories

AN EXHIBITION OF SYRIAN CHILDREN’S PHOTOGRAPHY

SARA MCINTYRE

BIOGRAPHY

Sara McIntyre is a graduate of Women in the Director’s Chair, the Praxis Story Editor Internship, and an instructor of story structure and acting techniques. She directed the award-winning, comedic short film, “My Father’s an Actor” produced through the Director’s Guild of Canada program, Crazy8s. Through Kiss Dust Pictures Sara directed and produced the internationally award-winning feature film, “Two Indians Talking”. She is most interested in stories about the joys and sorrows of being a smart woman in the world.

SYNOPSIS

This summer, SFU’s Vancity Office of Community Engagement partnered with the S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Moving Ahead Program (MAP) to deliver a series of photography workshops to young Syrian children who recently arrived in Vancouver as refugees. The goal of the project was to create story-telling space to empower the children to take hold over the narratives that define them. MAP supported children and parents during the entire process, from enrolment till the opening night of the exhibit. The project aimed at giving the children tools and information to explore the use of imagery and artistic expression to tell the stories of their lives.

The first two workshops covered some of the basics of photography, including framing, angles, lighting, exposure, subject, distance, and depth of field. After the second session, each of the students were provided with their own disposable film camera with 27-exposures, and had a two-week window to capture images of their lives. Thereafter they reconvened for a session on art show curation, where instructors helped the children identify themes and relationships within the photographs. During this final workshop the children each selected four images for the exhibit. All three workshops were held on campus.

The opening of Capturing Our Stories at the Interurban Art Gallery on August 31 was well attended, and most of the artists were in attendance — proudly showing off their work, posing for photos, and even signing autographs.
Understanding Students’ Experiences of Well-being in Learning Environments

ALISA STANTON

BIOGRAPHY

Rosie Dhaliwal, MEd and Alisa Stanton, MPH are Health Promotion Specialists at SFU Health and Counselling Services. Together they co-lead the Well-being in Learning Environments project as part of SFU’s Healthy Campus Community initiative.

SYNOPSIS

Although there are many studies exploring how health interventions can be embedded within educational settings (Seligman, Ernst, Gillham, Reivich, & Linkins, 2009; Conley, Durlak, & Kirsch, 2015), there is very little research on how higher education class structure and curriculum can be intentionally designed to create conditions for well-being. This poster highlights an exploration of students’ experiences of well-being in learning environments. Through semi-structured focus groups and interviews, students’ lived experiences of well-being in learning environments are shared. Although many pathways to well-being in learning environments emerged through the analysis, the most prominent themes centered on experiences of connection, flexibility and learning for purpose. From these themes, it seems that experiences of social connection, flexibility and learning for purpose may contribute to happiness, satisfaction, deep learning and engagement among students, and that these relationships are interconnected and multidirectional. Educators have an opportunity to explore how the design and delivery of higher education courses might contribute to student well-being and institutional success in order to remain innovative.

OTHER AUTHORS

• David Zandvliet
• Tara Black
• Crystal Hutchinson
Unsettling Assumptions: Reducing the Stigma of Mental Illness Among Asian Men

AUTHORS
- Cindy Jiang
- Peter Hoong
- Nimesh Patel
- Marina Morrow
- Stephanie Bryson
- Sri Pendakur
- Jamie Livingston
- Sharalyn Jordan
- Rod Lal

SYNOPSIS

Stigma cuts across all communities and works to set apart people with mental illness. The purpose of this intersectional, mixed methods study was to engage with men from Asian communities in Calgary, Toronto, and Vancouver to reduce the stigma related to mental illness using two different workshops, which were evaluated for effectiveness.

This presentation will discuss the recruitment techniques and challenges used to engage men from South, East, and Southeast Asian backgrounds in Vancouver, Canada. From January 2015 to March 2016, the Vancouver site recruited 1400 men, randomized 721 men into the intervention study and had a total of 432 men attend workshops. The participants recruited were aged 17 and older, self-identified as: male, living with and/or affected by mental illness (including family members, caregivers, and friends) or as a general community member wanting to learn more about mental health and wellbeing to take part in this study. Recruitment techniques included: guerrilla marketing (wild, street, and presence), distribution of flyers, social and other electronic media, outreach to community organizations, traditional marketing (radio, TV, advertisements), and word of mouth. Participants were compensated $55 for each workshop attended to cover their time and travel (up to a 10 sessions, including focus groups).
Short-term Consequences

INVESTIGATING THE EXTENT, NATURE AND RENTAL HOUSING IMPLICATIONS OF AIRBNB LISTINGS IN VANCOUVER

KAREN SAWATZKY

My research goal was to contribute to a better understanding of the extent and nature of Airbnb listings in the City of Vancouver, as well as of the implications of that information for the city’s rental housing policy goals. I looked at Airbnb’s growth, listings locations, types of listings and rates. After collecting and analyzing data for several months, I concluded that Airbnb’s unchecked growth poses an obstacle to the achievement of the city’s housing strategies and goals, which include the protection of existing rental stock. My presentation will touch on the highlights of my research and its impacts.

BIOGRAPHY

Karen Sawatzky recently defended her urban studies master’s thesis titled, Short-term Consequences: Investigating the Extent, Nature and Rental Housing Implications of Airbnb Listings in Vancouver. She is the 2016 winner of Urban Studies Alumni Award for Community Engagement and the Lambda Alpha Vancouver Graduate Award.

SYNOPSIS

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SYNOPSIS

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SYNOPSIS
Why Don’t They Just Get a Job?

INCOME ASSISTANCE AND SOCIAL HIRING IN THE DTES

BIOGRAPHY

Kimberly is an SFU Masters of Public Policy student with a Bachelors Degree in Psychology and Critical Criminology. She is a feminist, social justice advocate, sex workers’ rights activist, non-profit employee, soccer player, world traveler and lover of baked goods.

SYNOPSIS

In Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside (DTES), social enterprises are exemplifying innovation through social hiring – that is, providing flexible and supportive employment and training opportunities to DTES residents experiencing barriers to traditional employment. This past summer, the Local Economic Development Lab and Potluck Café teamed up to support an exploration into the effects of income assistance policy on social hiring in the DTES. Through legislative analysis and interviews with social enterprise employers, community organizations and government employees, this research identifies key impediments to employment created by income assistance policies and the subsequent effects on social enterprise’s ability to support social hiring. Ultimately, the findings suggest that systemic factors inherent in income assistance policy are impeding social hiring. With this, key policy areas are identified that could result not only in an increase in employment, but also the enhancement of individual health, and well-being, as well as a plethora of positive economic effects for the DTES neighborhood and its residents.
Sharing the Legacies and Wisdom of Elders Through Digital Storytelling

DAVID KAUFMAN

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Kaufman is a University Professor in the Faculty of Education at SFU. He has presented more than 200 lectures and/or workshops worldwide and published more than 120 peer-reviewed articles and three books. He is funded through an AGE-WELL NCE grant to study digital games and digital storytelling for seniors.

SYNOPSIS

Through reflecting on past life events, participants in our project are able create an artefact about a significant event from their lives to share with others. This is a legacy! Our project uses digital storytelling as a way to create this legacy. Digital storytelling is a form of narrative that creates short movies using simple media technology. Over the past two years, we have been offering 8-9 week digital storytelling workshops to groups of 6-10 seniors in Greater Vancouver. Workshop participants are guided through a process of story creation, followed by being supported to create their story on a computer as a short video. Ninety participants in Greater Vancouver aged 55 and older have participated thus far. Data were collected during our workshops at more than a dozen seniors’ centres, libraries, and long-term care facilities in Greater Vancouver. The results of our research thus far have been extremely positive with participants reporting social, emotional and cognitive benefits. Viewers at our public events report that they greatly appreciate the stories, receive various positive messages, and have experienced a number of emotions while viewing them. This project will provide hundreds of seniors’ legacies that will provide a rich source of local history about residents in our city.
Reimagine Downtown Vancouver

BIOGRAPHY

Charles has been at the helm of the DVBIA since 1992. Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba he has a Master of City Planning degree from the University of Manitoba.

RESEARCH

In 2015 the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA) partnered with SFU Public Square to engage people from “all walks of life” using various techniques-- an on-line survey, facilitated sessions to gather input, street teams, one-on-one interviews-- to better understand what kind of downtown they want by the year 2040. Within a three-month period over 11,000 people had participated in this comprehensive community engagement process that connected downtown Vancouver residents, community members, and business people in order to “re-imagine” downtown Vancouver. The 2040 vision of downtown has been widely circulated to influencers and decision-makers, has gained widespread support and has been referenced in a number of City of Vancouver reports because it is third-party validation for many projects that the City is advancing.

Reimagine Downtown Vancouver has transformed the DVBIA. The 2040 vision is the new lens that we use to decide how we will react to public policy issues. In the months following the release of the Reimagine report, the DVBIA reversed its position on the viaducts (now in support of replacing them); separated bike lanes (now in support); and converting streets to pedestrian plazas. The DVBIA has also shifted human and financial resources to implement projects that get us closer to the people’s vision. For example, we secured funding from the City to transform an alleyway off Granville Street from being just a service corridor-- dumpsters and deliveries-- to a public space that includes patio space and basketball hoops. The people’s vision is now the foundation as we create our new five-year strategic plan. The plan will shift the focus of the DVBIA in a dramatic way.
Capturing Our Stories

AN EXHIBITION OF SYRIAN CHILDREN’S PHOTOGRAPHY

SARA MCINTYRE

BIOGRAPHY

Sara McIntyre is a graduate of Women in the Director’s Chair, the Praxis Story Editor Internship, and an instructor of story structure and acting techniques. She directed the award-winning, comedic short film, “My Father’s an Actor” produced through the Director’s Guild of Canada program, Crazy8s. Through Kiss Dust Pictures Sara directed and produced the internationally award-winning feature film, “Two Indians Talking”. She is most interested in stories about the joys and sorrows of being a smart woman in the world.

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Designing a Brain-Tablet App to Help Children Struggling at School

ALISSA ANTLE

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Antle earned Bachelor degrees in Liberal Arts and Systems Design Engineering from the University of Waterloo and a Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia. Dr. Antle has been research faculty at SFU since 2005, serving as Chair of Research Labs and Infrastructure, and the Undergraduate Curriculum. Before joining SFU, Dr. Antle spent eight years in the new media industry working as a senior designer, executive producer and consultant. Dr. Antle’s interactive media work has garnered attention from the Canadian New Media Awards, New Media Invision Awards [GOLD], SIIA Codie Awards, Webby Awards, and Parent’s Choice Foundation.

RESEARCH

Dr. Antle has build dozens of interactive systems and published over 75 peer reviewed papers in the areas of embodied and tangible interaction, and child-computer interaction, including an ACM Computing Notable Paper Award (2012) for her ground breaking work on embodied metaphor theory. As an assistant professor, she was nominated for an SFU teaching award, and received over half a million dollars of individual funding from agencies in science, engineering, social science and design. Dr Antle is a principal network investigator and project leader for KIDZ in the Graphics Animation and New Media Network Centre of Excellence. She has written a full length novel, which was nominated for a BC Emerging Writer’s Award, and recently completed the Gran Fondo cycling event (Vancouver-Whistler).
A University-Community Partnership with Non-Profit Businesses in British Columbia

The Front-Lines of Online Innovation

Oliver Keane

BIOGRAPHY
Oliver Keane is a PhD student in the Department of Geography, who came to Canada after living in Wuhan, China. He did his MA with Professor Peter Hall from the Department of Urban studies. Together they explored the online network-based spatialities of non-profit businesses (social enterprises) from 2014 - 2016.

SYNOPSIS
Our university-research partnership with 10 non-profit businesses (social enterprises) across British Columbia was a success! We provided 10 social enterprises with an annual Hootsuite Pro subscription, funded by Radius. The partnership gathered data on social media usage in the year before the partnership [2014 - 2015] and in the year during the partnership [2015 - 2016]. Evidence gathered from interviews highlighted the increased integration the software allowed in social enterprise work spaces. Quantitatively there was an increase in visits to the Facebook pages of the social enterprises. However, interviews also uncovered a darker side to social media usage. There were constraints on expertise and time, and pressure to use commodified solutions. Our partnership unveiled a front-line of innovation in the online “space of flows” that has come to dominate the cognitive fabric of our society.

Reimagining PhD Programs to Positively Contribute to Urban Communities

Efé Peker

BIOGRAPHY
Efé Peker is the coordinator of UBC’s Public Scholars Initiative, a pilot program for doctoral students that endorses innovative forms of collaborative scholarship with a view to making a real-world impact. He holds a dual-PhD in Sociology (SFU) and History (Sorbonne) with a current research focus on doctoral education.

SYNOPSIS
Efé’s talk addresses the need for innovating our PhD programs to help students follow their passion to have a real-world impact with their research. More specifically, he focuses on two dimensions of doctoral education that can be transformed for better public engagement: 1) endorsing collaborative research with urban communities and partners to enable the co-creation of knowledge and implementation to address social issues; and 2) broadening the scope of the dissertation to feature non-traditional artifacts (such as film, audio-visual and graphic pieces, websites, policy briefs, curricula, patents, etc.) produced and evaluated as outputs of scholarly collaboration and engagement.
Health Change Lab 2016: Heads, Hand and Heart education in Surrey

PAOLA ARDILES

BIOGRAPHY

Paola Ardiles, lecturer with SFU’s Faculty of Health Science is co-designing a new interdisciplinary curriculum on health innovation. Paola was awarded the 2012 Dr. Nancy Hall Public Leadership Award of Distinction in recognition of her innovative, collaborative and inter-sectoral approaches in health promotion research, policy and practice.

SYNOPSIS

The Change Lab concept was launched five years ago by SFU alumna Jennifer McRae while still an undergraduate student, as an experiment in the future of learning at universities. Run for several years as an interdisciplinary experience between the Faculty of Environment and Beedie School of Business, the program has been offered at all three campuses and is now partnering with Health Sciences and adding a Health Change Lab cohort in Surrey, billed as a “living laboratory”. Health Change Lab students work together with community partners at the City of Surrey and Fraser Health, and spend one day a week in Surrey, conceiving ideas and creating projects designed to impact health and wellbeing in the community. This 30-student cohort is actively learning about health promotion values and principles in conjunction with social entrepreneurship skills. Seven interdisciplinary teams of students are researching key issues in Surrey such as food security, chronic disease prevention, healthy ageing and active transportation, taking a wide view that focuses on root causes rather than symptoms. Students do a “deep dive” into prototyping and test their early stage ideas, giving demos and making presentations along the way. The Health Change Lab, like other courses in the entrepreneurship and innovation program, focuses on building great future entrepreneurs, more so than specific venture outcomes. However, past Change Lab concepts have already moved on to the incubation process.
Photos from Researching the City 2015: