RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

EHSAN JOZAGHI SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDS DISSERTATION

Criminology PhD candidate Ehsan Jozaghi has published multiple journal articles in his short academic career. His research explores changes in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside (DTES) over the past 18 years, specifically the effects of a supervised injection site, peer drug users’ social networks, and harm reduction programs.

Jozaghi successfully defended his PhD dissertation, “The Role of Peer Drug Users’ Social Networks and Harm Reduction Programs in Changing the Dynamics for People Who Use Drugs in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, Canada” on April 15. From September 2012, nine peer-reviewed studies were published from his research findings.

The dissertation discusses two broad themes: the practicality of supervised injection facilities in saving health care dollars, and a unique discussion on how peer drug users’ support is transforming the DTES community.
Jozaghi applied cost benefits analyses to Vancouver’s Insite, the only supervised injection facility in North America, proving that the facility provides enough monetary savings to justify its’ operating expenses. He saw similar results when applying the analyses to major cities across Canada: Victoria, Saskatoon, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal.

“All the cities that I have looked at indicate that benefits do exceed the costs of operating because of reductions in HIV and Hepatitis C infections, and overdose death reductions. These benefits are significant, sometimes over two or three million dollars for the facilities that we looked at. So it is very significant margins,” said Jozaghi.

What makes Jozaghi’s study particularly interesting is that he looks beyond dollars and cents when assessing the value of facilities like Insite. His research provides a unique perspective that other studies have not explored – the actual opinions of injection drug users on the value of supervised injection sites and harm reduction programs to their communities.

Jozaghi interviewed multiple peer injection drug users affiliated with Insite or the Washington Needle Depot (WND). These interviews collected the volunteers’ opinions on how Insite and the WND, plus their own volunteer efforts, are changing the DTES for the better.

His findings show that peers play an important role in improving the lifestyle of those living in the DTES:

“The research regarding Insite is very clear. It has reduced vulnerabilities amongst injected drug users and reduced deaths outside of the facility. It has also increased the outtake for addiction services, and increased the health and well being of people who use drugs,” said Jozaghi.

---

**Awards Received**

- Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for $150,000
- Province of British Columbia Research Fellowship
- President’s PhD Scholarship

**Publications**

See page 7 for a full list of Jozaghi’s publications.

“Peers are instrumental in not only increasing health care services for a very marginalized population who normally do not try to get access to health care services and prevention programs. But these peers are also increasing the voice of marginalized peoples in the DTES. It’s a very effective method of health care delivery for this community.”

Jozaghi’s comprehensive research efforts have provided new knowledge on the value of supervised injection sites, peer drug users’ social networks and harm reduction programs. He’s demonstrated that these efforts do improve health care services for high injection drug user populations.

Jozaghi will graduate in summer 2015. He is continuing his research by conducting a social network analysis of peer injection drug users for Dr. Martin Bouchard. In a few years, Jozaghi aims to enroll in medical school to further his interest in improving access to health care services for marginalized peoples.
UNDERGRADUATE FOCUS
HONOURS STUDENTS’ THESES
PRESENTATIONS SHOW QUALITY RESEARCH

Coming up with a relevant research topic is challenging, especially one that is unique. However, this year’s cohort of Criminology honours students made it look easy when presenting at the Honours Thesis Symposium.

The group of seven students presented their completed theses to classmates, faculty and the public. Each student had a half hour to explain the purpose of their research, the methodology used, and the implications of the results. The audience also had the opportunity to ask questions and to give suggestions for further research.

“The students worked hard to collect strong research data for these projects. The results are impressive. The presentations and the written theses demonstrate the quality of students we have in the honours program. They’ve produced research that is relevant to the study of criminology and to the community,” said
Associate Director Sheri Fabian, who runs the honours program.

All of the theses topics asked a pressing question about a key issue in current affairs or popular culture. Each student sought to find an answer to a particular problem that is impacting our communities today.

Topics included: female serial killers on TV, gunshot detection in Vancouver, organized crime in film, the NFL and intimate partner violence, Muslims’ confidence in the criminal justice system, reader comments on Edward Snowden, and student perceptions of sexual assault and sexual assault prevention campaigns.

In addition to consulting current literature on the subject of choice, research data were collected using a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods. Students conducted interviews and distributed surveys; they also analyzed news articles, comment feeds, television episodes and feature films.

The students will now add the finishing touches to their theses before submitting the final versions for grading. Upon graduating in summer 2015, the students have big plans: graduate school, law school and promising career paths.

“I am extremely proud of the students for their accomplishments this year. I know I speak for all of the professors, when I say that it was a pleasure to teach them and to guide them in their research. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours,” said Fabian.

Visit the School’s website to view the students’ theses abstracts and completed projects.

---

### 2015 Honours Students

**Ali Al-Samak**

“Confidence or No Confidence, That is the Question: Exploring Muslim People’s Confidence, Perceptions, and Knowledge of the Canadian Criminal Justice System”

Supervisor: Dr. Curt Griffiths

**Amber Aaren Ivers**

“Best You Just Get Used to It”: Guardian Readers Comment on the Snowden Revelations”

Supervisor: Dr. Ted Palys

**Dana Lawres**

“She’s Lost It”: A Content Analysis of the Portrayal of Female Murderers in Criminal Minds”

Supervisor: Dr. Sheri Fabian

**Brooke Lupick**

“It’s all about the Game: Public Perceptions of the National Football League’s Responses to Players Accused of Intimate Partner Violence”

Supervisor: Dr. Sheri Fabian

**Laura Miller**

“Don’t Victim Blame, But…”: Student Perceptions of Sexual Assault and Sexual Assault Prevention Campaigns”

Supervisor: Dr. Sheri Fabian

**Mike Parmar**

“Gunshot Detection and Location Service: An Environmental Scan”

Supervisor: Dr. Rick Parent

**Wilson Tam**

“None of Us Will See Heaven: Analyzing Organized Crime in Feature Films”

Supervisor: Dr. Brian Burtch
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CLUB SENDS STUDENTS TO PRESENT AT HARVARD

SFU’s Restorative Justice Club recently fundraised to send a group of high school students to teach a training session on restorative justice at Harvard University.

The students belong to the Academy of Choice in Houston, Texas, a small public high school with a population of at-risk youth. Anita Wadhwa, the school’s leadership teacher, instructs students at the Academy how to resolve conflicts on campus using restorative justice processes.

Wadhwa is an expert on restorative justice, critical race theory and the school to prison pipeline. She’s connected to SFU through Professor Brenda Morrison, who served on the supervision committee for Wadhwa’s doctoral thesis at Harvard University, and is Director of the SFU School of Criminology’s Centre for Restorative Justice.

The students attended the Alumni of Color Conference at the Harvard Graduate School of Education to help teach conference participants what they’ve learned about the restorative justice process through a role-play scenario.
At the Academy of Choice, interpersonal conflicts between students and teachers, and among students themselves, are addressed using peacemaking circles. Peacemaking circles are a form of group dialogue that seeks resolve conflict by encouraging accountability and providing support for amends.

“We chose to fundraise to send a group of Anita’s students to Harvard to provide the students with a unique opportunity to share what they’ve learned,” said Christina Ma, a founder of the Restorative Justice Club and an undergraduate student in the department of economics.

“Some of her students are at-risk youth who were once part of gangs and are now helping other students resolve conflicts and repair relationships among rival gang members, or sometimes their work involves resolving conflicts among ex-boyfriends and girlfriends.”

A key goal of the Restorative Justice Club is to bring awareness and provide training opportunities for students who desire to be facilitators in justice processes. The Club raised enough community funds to first send students to Harvard in February 2014. This year, the Club contributed to the group’s trip through individual donations. They hope to continue to support the group yearly in some capacity.

### About SFU’s Restorative Justice Club

Dayna Northwood, Sam Purton and Christina Ma founded the Restorative Justice Club in 2014 to promote and advocate restorative justice values and mechanisms.

“All of her students are at-risk youth who were once part of gangs and are now helping other students resolve conflicts and repair relationships among rival gang members, or sometimes their work involves resolving conflicts among ex-boyfriends and girlfriends.”

About SFU’s Restorative Justice Club

Dayna Northwood, Sam Purton and Christina Ma founded the Restorative Justice Club in 2014 to promote and advocate restorative justice values and mechanisms.

“Christina took our foundation course in restorative justice (Crim 315) as her breadth course. That particular semester SFU was participating in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and Reconciliation Canada events. Inspired by the course and the reconciliation activities, Christina and the other students founded the club,” said Morrison.

The Club believes in applying restorative justice practices to all forms of conflict, and to use peacemaking circles to encourage community building. All interested students are encouraged to join the Club. Club members will receive 50% off Centre for Restorative Justice training courses happening this spring.

For more information, please contact the Restorative Justice Club at rjclbsfu@gmail.com.

### SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO PROFILE

**Do you know a dedicated volunteer who deserves some recognition?**

Send us their name!

We’re preparing a series of articles to honour volunteers from Crim. We’re looking for the names of students, staff and faculty who are making a difference in their communities.

Send an email to crimcomm@sfu.ca with the volunteer’s name, contact information and a sentence on how they are making a difference.
Jozaghi has been successful in publishing his Doctoral Dissertation in a number of peer-reviewed journals.

• **Chapter two** as whole is published in *Journal of Substance Use* in 2014:


• **Chapter three** as a whole is published in the *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice* in 2014:


• **Chapter four** as a whole is published in *International Journal of Qualitative Studies on Health and Well-being* in 2014:


• **Chapter five** results are published in multiple peer-reviewed studies.

  ▶ The result for the city of Montreal is published in *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy* in 2013:


  ▶ The result for the city of Ottawa in **chapter 5** is published in *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy* in 2014:


  ▶ **Chapter 5** also includes results for city of Saskatoon currently in press in *International Journal of Health policy and Management*, but published online on March 29, 2015:


  ▶ In addition to the noted items mentioned above, the result for the city of Toronto in **chapter 5** is currently in press in *International Criminal Justice Review*:

Finally the result for the city of Victoria in *chapter five* is in press in *Urban Geography*:


- Part of *chapter six* is a peer-reviewed letter to the editor of the *Journal of Substance Use* currently in press, but published online on December 05, 2014:


Jozaghi has also been successful in publishing his Master’s Thesis in a number of peer-reviewed journals.

- **Chapter 2** is published in *Urban Geography*:


- **Chapter 3** is published in *Harm Reduction Journal*:


- Finally **Chapter 4** is published in *Urban Studies*: