



# NEWSLETTER

Social Justice Research Institute (SJRI)

July 2019

The SJRI is a vibrant collective of affiliates, associates, fellows, and members brought together by a shared concern for pressing social justice issues.

This month's newsletter is dedicated to: reporting on highlights from our AGM, including a welcome to our most recent affiliates; thanking past members for their contributions; providing a community-engaged research update; and reminding members of related opportunities as well as upcoming events.

## AGM Highlights



This year, SJRI held our Annual General meeting on Wednesday May 15. Dr. Tim Kenyon, VP Research, opened the event with comments congratulating SJRI for our distinguished work fostering communication and connections across faculties and with community.

Our AGM closed with a talk by Dr. Janet Conway on the topic of *Being a Social Justice Public Scholar*. This talk and ensuing discussion were framed in relation to:

1. **conflicts among ourselves** about what 'social justice' means to us as 'social justice' scholars;
2. **conflicts between ourselves and community partners** about different views on social justice praxis;
3. **conflicts among ourselves and university demands** such as the need to produce impact reporting that can comprise international, radical, theoretical work; and
4. **conflicts between ourselves and the wider society** in light of real backlashes against people who speak out about social injustices and inequities.



Visit our [website](#) for more information about this talk.

### Other AGM Highlights

We are excited to announce that Dr. Joanne Crawford (Nursing) was voted in as an FSC member and that Dr. Mike Ripmeester (Geography & Tourism Studies) and Dr. Dawn Trussell (Recreation & Leisure Studies) were voted in as affiliates. Welcome!



We'd like to thank the following affiliates whose membership on SJRI's Faculty Steering Committee was renewed by membership vote at this year's AGM:

- Dr. David Butz (Geography & Tourism Studies)
- Dr. Andrea Doucet (Sociology; Women's & Gender Studies)
- Dr. Laurie Morrison (Liaison Services, Gibson Library)
- Dr. Sue Spearey (English Language & Literature)

Visit our website for a list of [SJRI Affiliates](#) and [Faculty Steering Committee Members](#).

Are you, or is someone you know, interested in becoming an SJRI Affiliate?  
If so, visit our [website](#) to learn more.

Current SJRI Affiliates, visit our [website](#) to learn how you can become an FSC member.

### Thank You and Good-Bye



Please join us in a huge thank you to Dr. June Corman and Dr. Janet Conway, both founding FSC members and affiliates who also have served as Director of the SJRI. Both will be greatly missed for their vision, strategic skills, and deep commitment to social justice.

June has recently retired from Brock, but will remain as an SJRI affiliate. Janet is the new Nancy's Chair in Women's Studies at Mount Saint Vincent University.

As of July 1, SJRI also had to say good-bye to past FSC members Dr. Jennifer Rowsell and Dr. Trish Ruebottom, as well as to affiliate Dr. Yasmine Kandil. All three have moved to work at other Canadian universities. This is a great loss for Brock and for the SJRI. We are sad to see all three of these social justice scholars go, and we wish them all of the best in their new institutions.

## SJRI Community-Engaged Research Updates



Congratulations to Dr. Shannon Moore and co-investigators Dr. Karen Smith and Dr. Curtis Tye for being awarded a grant from Niagara Community Foundation to support their work with Start Me Up Niagara (SMUN) to investigate leading practices in SMUN's radical service delivery model to better understand how these can be extended and augmented to benefit the wider Niagara community.



At the beginning of 2018, CEVAW approached the SJRI to produce updated information about the extent and use of CEVAW member organizations. To this end, the research team is investigating barriers to accessing CEVAW member organizations. To date, they have surveyed Executive Directors and other employees (paid and unpaid) of CEVAW member organizations on this topic. The next phase of the research involves interviewing community members who could be accessing these available supports in Niagara, but who either are not accessing them or who have discontinued engaging with them.



Following the "Making a Difference in Niagara" event that we hosted in November 2018, Dr. Joanne Crawford (Nursing) and Nyarayi Kapisavanhu (Executive Director of TOES) have been working together to develop a project to create, implement, and evaluate workshops and other interventions that address social exclusion among marginalized populations in Niagara.

Click [here](#) for more information about SJRI community partnerships.

## Opportunities for SJRI Affiliates: Community-Engaged Research

- **Rotary Club:** As reported in our April 2019 newsletter, David Alexander (President of the Rotary Club of Welland and Niagara Community Observatory (NCO) Advisory Committee member) is seeking SJRI affiliates to research the decline of memberships in service clubs like Rotary and Kiwanis, the effects of this decline, and how to address it.
- **Folk Arts Multicultural Centre:** The Centre is very keen to continue to pursue research partnerships with Brock faculty and students. For example, during a recent meeting they noted an interest in building on existing data they collected regarding barriers to mental health services in the region in order to help to make these more accessible.

Please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) if either of these projects piques your interest and/or if you have another community-engaged research project in mind.

### Upcoming SJRI Events

SJRI is proud to support a research presentation by Dr. Sabine Sielke on Thursday, September 12 titled “Feminism Reloaded? The Serial Debate on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence, or: What’s New about #MeToo?” The talk is co-hosted by Brock’s Department of English & Literature and Humanities. Dr. Sielke will build on her earlier work on cultural seriality by historicizing #MeToo in relation to previous peaks of feminist intervention. She will then map the impact of the digital media ecology from which #MeToo emerged, before showing how #MeToo is an example of a memory practice which, like all such practices, depends on both remembering and forgetting. Please save the date!

Stay tuned for more details about our upcoming semi-annual AGM, which will take place this Fall and will include affiliate voting as well as reporting on some recent projects funded by the SJRI Grants Program.

In the meantime, click here to learn more about SJRI Grants and note that the next competition deadline will be at the end of November.

### LET’S STAY CONNECTED

Click here to check out our updated website

Click here to follow our re-activated Twitter account

*You feedback and suggestions are always welcome @ [SJRI@brocku.ca](mailto:SJRI@brocku.ca)!*