

# Child and Youth Studies News



I feel privileged to be the new chair of the CHYS department. For just about 15 years I have watched our department grow into what it is today. We are working within a thriving academic environment with an incredibly dedicated staff and faculty. Our undergraduate and graduate programs have developed and grown tremendously and our halls, meeting rooms, offices, and labs are filled with dedicated students who make our department a wonderful place to work. As chair, I will work towards continuing to promote such a collegial and productive environment. I look forward to working with our staff, faculty, and students to support the continued success of our Child and Youth Studies department.

My own research centers around supporting children and youth with learning disabilities. Over the past number of years, I have partnered with several Learning Disabilities Associations from across the Province to develop and implement reading programs for vulnerable readers. My research team, including graduate and undergraduate students along with our community partners, have conducted several research studies aimed at exploring the efficacy of our applied programs. These studies have resulted in numerous publications and conference papers as well as several workshops and community-based initiatives. At Brock, I teach courses in exceptionalities and development across the years of CHYS program.

I'd like to introduce myself as the new Graduate Program Director (GPD) in the department of Child and Youth Studies. I started in June of 2017 and have already experienced a number of exciting and challenging GPD duties, including the new graduate student orientation and welcome event, recruitment season, adjudicating applications for next year's MA and PhD cohorts, and teaching the professional seminar to our new MA students (I love this class! We talk about how to be a successful grad student, but we also speak openly and honestly about questions, concerns, and interests that students in the class have. It's a fab group of people and I always enjoy our conversations).



Overall, I have found the job to be rewarding; for me, the best part is getting to know graduate students better and engaging with our many faculty members around issues pertaining to grad courses and supervisory relationships. It's such a multifaceted job and I am learning so much more about the university and how it works. I am also meeting people across the faculty at the Faculty of Social Sciences GPD meetings with interim Associate Dean, Dr. Dawn Zinga, and across the university at the Grad Council meetings, with the interim Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Diane Dupont. It's an exciting time to be a GPD at Brock University. Our enrolment numbers are rising each year and so is our enthusiasm for graduate programs. Case in point: our new PhD degree in Child and Youth Studies is really taking off! Each year, we receive more applications than the last and continue to strengthen our reputation for delivering high quality, inter- and trans-disciplinary courses and research projects that lead to diverse and multi-faceted careers with young people. So if you have any questions about grad studies in CHYS or just want to say hello and ask me how it's going, don't hesitate to drop by my office, Cairns 331. My door is always open and I welcome your suggestions and thoughts about our MA and PhD programs. Later, S.

## New Additions to CHYS



I'm Dr. Hannah Dyer, Assistant Professor in the CHYS Department. My research employs interdisciplinary methods to investigate how sexuality, gender and nation-state become entangled in theories of child development. I am interested in how aesthetic and expressive cultures of childhood reframe relationships to political crises, historical traumas and social debates about belonging. Drawing on queer theory and psychoanalytic theories of aesthetic expression, my work examines the affiliations between processes of cultural belonging and the child's psychological interiority. I turn to children's art and art about childhood to better understand how to repair justice and build hope in the aftermath of violence. My current project, *The Queer Aesthetics of Childhood*, explores what traces of history and memory can be observed in children's art and asks how children's aesthetic expressions can cause us to re-think what we know of gender and sexuality. While taking the child's material vulnerabilities and pressing need for care into account, this work also draws from the humanities' emphasis on aesthetics, fantasy and futurity.



I'm Dr. Dan Cui, Assistant Professor in the Department of Child and Youth Studies. I received my PhD in the Theoretical, Cultural and International Studies in Education at the University of Alberta. Before I joined Brock University, I held a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley and the University of British Columbia (2015-17), and an Eyes High Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Calgary (2013-15). My current two ongoing SSHRC projects respectively focus on the integration of racialized minority immigrant youth in Canada and the United States, and the immigration and employment transition of international students

## CHYS Academic Boot Camp

Boomer was up bright and early on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> to welcome our CHYS Academic Boot Camp 2018 participants. Intended for first year students, this one day event involves a student panel, workshops on stress/time management and essay writing/perfectionism, an advisement session and a faculty panel. This initiative began in January 2016 and offers students "hope" for a successful journey through their academics here at Brock.



### New PhD Students 2017/18

Courtney Bishop, Lisa Whittingham, Kristopher Brazil, Kimberley Duffin, Emily Guertin, Shauna Kingston, Michelle Janzen

### New MA Students 2017/18

William Janssen, Sarah Keefe, Dipika Majumder, Nicole Mansell, Jane McClure, Mirmahoud Mirnasad, Abbaigeal O'Leary, Katerina Schiralli, Nicole Staite, Samara Al-Hakeem

## Faculty and Staff News and Highlights



[Partnership draws DSBN Academy grads to Brock](#) Child and Youth Studies Course Co-ordinator, Ellen Carter, said it has been a privilege working with the young students and watching them progress over time. Community engagement is important to Brock.

[Dawn Zinga as Acting Associate Dean, Graduate Studies and Research. Ready to help Social Sciences realize potential](#)

Rebecca Raby is one of the co-editors of the recently published collection, *The Sociology of Childhood and Youth in Canada* (2018, Canadian Scholars' Press), which also includes chapters that are co-written by Voula Marinos, Shauna Pomerantz and Rebecca Raby. This volume is aimed at undergraduate students. Sections cover conducting research with children and youth; the social construction of childhood and youth; inequalities and intersections; and citizenship, rights and social engagement. [https://canadianscholars.ca/books/the-sociology-of-childhood-and-youth-studies-in-canada#tab\\_overview](https://canadianscholars.ca/books/the-sociology-of-childhood-and-youth-studies-in-canada#tab_overview)

Child and Youth Studies professors Rebecca Raby and Shauna Pomerantz continue to receive widespread media coverage for their new book, "Smart Girls: Success, School and The Myth of Post-Feminism," making an appearance on [TVO](#) and being featured in [Ms. Magazine Blog](#).

Tony Volk in the Toronto Star <https://www.thestar.com/life/2018/01/29/mom-and-kids-spreading-joy-through-the-mail.html>

Tony Volk in the Brock News <https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2018/01/teens-who-bully-will-use-those-traits-to-get-sex-new-research-shows/>

Dawn Zinga and Tony Volk in the Brock News <https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2017/09/brock-awarded-2-2-million-in-sshrf-funding-in-2017/>

Tony Volk in The Good Men Project <https://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/the-good-and-bad-of-school-dress-codes-phzt/>

Heather Chalmers in the Globe and Mail <https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/life/parenting/invisible-angels-young-people-caring-for-their-family-members-go-mostly-unseen-children/article36655527/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&>

Shauna Pomerantz interviewed by The Canadian Press <http://toronto.ctvnews.ca/dress-codes-a-contentious-issue-for-some-parents-as-school-year-begins-1.3561472> The story was picked b 54 publications across Canada, including [CTV Toronto News](#).

Voula Marinos & Ph.D student Lisa Whittingham have been invited to a two-day Workshop on Therapeutic Jurisprudence at St. Thomas University School of Law, Miami Gardens, FL on February 2-3. Therapeutic Jurisprudence is the foundational theory underlying specialized courts (i.e., mental health courts; drug courts) in North America, Europe and other continents. They are presenting "The Role of TJ to Support Persons with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities in the Courtroom: Reflections from Ontario, Canada." The paper will also be published in an upcoming special issue of the *International Journal of Law & Psychiatry*, dedicated of one of the founders of Therapeutic Jurisprudence, David Wexler.

On September 25, 2017, Voula Marinos was invited as part of a panel on false guilty please. She presented her paper: "Persons with Intellectual Disabilities & False Guilty Pleas." Between a Rock and a Hard Place: False Guilty Pleas and Wrongful Convictions. Innocence Canada (Formerly Association for the Wrongly Convicted). Ontario Bar Association. Toronto, ON. <https://vimeo.com/236598427>