

TRENT CENTRE FOR AGING & SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Maddy McNab, Kate Viscardis, Peri Ballantyne, Sadeqa Siddiqui

Introducing the Triannual TCAS Newsletter

The Trent Centre for Aging & Society has had a banner year. Our members remain at the forefront of critical aging research, we continue to draw new members who are at the top of their respective fields, and all attract funding, awards, and a significant amount of public notice. We share these stories of success on our social media platforms and on the TCAS website, itself newly designed and much more user friendly.

That said, the time is right to offer our membership and interested supporters a more formalized compendium of all that we do in a more consistent and easy to read format.

Enter, the TCAS Newsletter. Published three times per year (summer, autumn, winter), this newsletter is meant to build on the momentum of our recently released (and inaugural) magazine by formalizing communications with Centre members and interested supporters. Over time, the newsletter will serve as an easily accessible, simple to use web

archive, which will be especially useful as a quick point of reference for all.

The objective of the newsletter is to recap recent Centre business, check in with what's current, and look ahead to notable events, deadlines, and whatever else is in the offing.

To make the newsletter truly useful, your participation is required. We need you to regularly pass along updates – research related, seminars/conferences, funding announcements, media opportunities, photos, and whatever else you think others might need to know about – to Justin.

Occasionally, reminders will be emailed to everyone soliciting ideas and information. For example, what else would you like this newsletter to be? Please let us know.

Thanks to you all for your diligent support and continued good work.

Mark and Justin

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TCAS

An interdisciplinary team of more than thirty faculty, students and community stakeholders working together to build dialogue around issues related to aging and critically informed aging research.

Vision

To make Trent University the international leader in interdisciplinary aging studies.

TCAS Director:

Dr. Mark Skinner

Newsletter Credits:

Writer/Editor: Justin Sutton



TRENT CENTRE FOR AGING & SOCIETY

The Year That Was

Ongoing: TCAS welcomed several new members to its ranks in 2016, including: **Ieva Stončikaitė**, Ph.D. candidate in English Studies, University of Lleida, Spain. Ms. Stončikaitė is currently visiting Trent to work on her research with Suzanne Bailey. **Rachel Barken**, SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology, York University. **Catherine Ward-Griffin**, Faculty Fellow, Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Western Ontario. **Kristi Allain**, Assistant Professor, Sociology, St. Thomas University. **Kim English**, Faculty member, Trent/Fleming School of Nursing. **Rachel Herron**, Assistant Professor, Geography, Brandon University. **Mark Rosenberg**, Professor of Geography & Planning, and Public Health Sciences, Queen's University, and Canada Research Chair in Development Studies. **Sarah West**, Assistant Professor, Kinesiology, Trent University. **Elizabeth Russell**, Assistant Professor, Psychology, Trent University.

TCAS Fast Facts 2015-2016

More than **30** conferences attended/talks given

More than **15** research grants awarded

More than **4** student projects completed

5 guest speakers sponsored

1 new undergraduate course launched

And, **Amber Colibaba**, M.A. candidate in Sustainability Studies, Trent University.

Critical Intersections Symposium

Spring 2015 - Organized by TCAS Executive Member, Stephen Katz, and funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), "Critical Intersections: Mild Cognitive Impairment, Aging and Dementia in Theory and Practice" was a very well attended conference of inspiring, international scholars representing a plurality of disciplines and fields of study.

TCAS Partners with Athletic Centre

In **January**, TCAS codified an agreement to partner with the Trent Athletic Centre aimed at boosting aging studies at the university and fostering healthy and active aging in the community. One of TCAS' newest members, Dr. Sarah West, helps to solidify the relationship with the Athletic Centre as she works to establish an exercise lab that will study the effects of exercise on older adults who make use of the Trent Athletics Centre. Communications shot a promotional video with Dr. West in the new space aimed at increasing recruitment to the Kinesiology program at Trent.

TCAS and the Trent Athletics Centre also co-hosted the annual **Walk for Alzheimer's** in late **January**. This year's edition contributed an impressive \$10,275 to the Ontario total of \$1.2 million for Alzheimer's research.

TCAS likewise solidified another important partnership by formalizing its memorandum of understanding with the **Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging**, McMaster University.

Winter: TCAS launched its first undergraduate course "Critical Perspectives on Aging" led by Beryl Cable-Williams. Enrolment was very strong and it was team taught by faculty from five disciplines. The class returns, **winter 2017**

February: The Centre's first Admin/Research/Communications assistant, Sylvia Dick, left her post to pursue a long-held desire to teach English in Asia. Sylvia was integral to getting the office set-up, providing research support to Sarah Cullingham and the Age-friendly Peterborough plan, as well as getting the ball rolling in terms of Centre communications and planning. Justin Sutton took over for Sylvia and has since expanded the Centre's communications plan by producing the first TCAS magazine, revising and updating the website and creating this newsletter.

As the Centre was undergoing its first major staffing change, Centre Director, Dr. Mark Skinner was officially named



Ann MacLeod, Mary Smith, An Kosurko, Rachel Winterton, Mark Skinner, Heidi Burns

the **Canada Research Chair in Rural Aging, Health and Social Care**. Trent's first Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) funded, \$500,000, five year renewable appointment, puts increased emphasis on Dr. Skinner's work looking at the evolving role volunteerism is playing in aging rural communities.

Also in **February**, Centre advisor, Dr. Neil Emery was appointed the vice-president of research and innovation at the University.

In making the appointment, Dr. Leo Groarke, president and vice-chancellor of Trent University said, "...the search committee was impressed by Dr. Emery's work to make the Office of Research more effective and cohesive, the outstanding research results that have characterized Trent during his term as vice-president Research and International, and the work he has done to ensure that Trent is recognized as a key component of research infrastructure in Ontario and Canada."

Our First Visiting Scholars

Dr. Rachel Winterton, LaTrobe University, Australia came to Peterborough in April to spend a few weeks working with Dr. Mark Skinner. While here, Dr. Winterton delivered a well attended seminar at Alumni House entitled “Exploring the Nexus between Rural Citizenship and Retirement Migration: Reflections from the Australian Context.” One result of Dr. Winterton’s talk was an invitation by seminar attendee, Mayor of Selwyn, Mary Smith, to take Dr. Winterton to a community meeting with older volunteers, which then snowballed into a canoe trip. By all accounts, a terrific side benefit to a very successful research trip to Canada.

From Ireland via Cleveland

Dr. Áine Ní Léime joined us to discuss her current work on 26 May. The Irish social gerontologist, was invited to share her research on active aging and extended working life policies,



Áine Ní Léime

specifically the gendered aspects of secure and precarious positions in the United States.

Professor Ní Léime’s cross-national research project, “Gender, Older Workers and the Lifecourse,” analyzes and compares the experiences of Irish and U.S. older workers. Women, according to Prof. Ní Léime’s findings, are particularly vulnerable to the deprivations of poverty thanks to part-time, and increasingly precarious employment. Government policy and an

alarmist public discourse makes the situation for older workers in the United States even more difficult as services and pensions are reduced, the age of retirement raised, and generations are pitted against one another for increasingly scarce resources.

Prof. Ní Léime suggests this competitive view of society prevents us from seeking out more compassionate answers to the complex questions raised by aging on the job. By documenting workers’ own experiences, Prof. Ní Léime seeks to understand exactly how such policies affect ordinary people in their daily lives.

A Research Fellow at the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology (ICSG) at the National University of Ireland, Galway, Dr. Ní Léime is currently working at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland for the first two years of a prestigious three year Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship from the European Union Framework Programme 7.

Intersections Feminist Seminar Series

Barbara Ratzenböck, an Austrian Doctoral Candidate from the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz, came to Peterborough at the invitation of Dr. May Chazan to share her research in-progress with students and faculty. Co-sponsored by TCAS, on 3 June Ms. Ratzenböck offered a methodological reflection on her work with older women and their multidimensional experiences with information and communication technologies at Kerr House.

The next day, Ms. Ratzenböck screened a short documentary, *Shifting Perspectives* that she produced with filmmaker Pavel Mezihorak, and Aging Studies and Inter-American Studies scholar Roberta Maierhofer. The film goes behind the scenes of the intensive



Sally Chivers, Barb Marshall, Barbara Ratzenböck, May Chazan, Melissa Baldwin

summer program at Graz International Summer School in Southern Styria, Austria. After the screening, Ms. Ratzenböck and summer school alumna, film contributor, and current MA candidate in Canadian and Indigenous Studies, Melissa Baldwin, engaged in a

lively question and answer session about the summer program with the audience.

Awards

January: Rachel Barken was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Award (PhD Program, Department of Sociology, McMaster University) by the Canadian Sociological Association.

February: Dr. Mark Skinner was named Canada Research Chair (CRC) in rural aging, health, and social care, in an official announcement made on 9 February by the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science.

May: Early in the month, Ann Macleod, Trent/Fleming Nursing, was presented with the inaugural Trent Community Leadership Award. The prize is given to two staff members "who make exceptional contributions to the local community in the Peterborough or Durham regions." Ann was presented with a framed certificate, a \$250 cash award, and an additional \$250 to donate to a charity or agency of her choice

May: Announced in late May, the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) awarded Dr. Jenny Ingram its Glen Sawyer Service Award. A valued member of the TCAS Advisory Committee, Dr. Ingram also founded the Kawartha Regional Memory Clinic and co-chairs the Peterborough Council on Aging.

Dr. Ingram was presented her award on **10 June** by her peers at the Peterborough County Medical Association. Established in 1972 in honour of Dr. Glenn Sawyer, the longest-serving General Society Secretary of the OMA, the award is given to OMA members in recognition of significant service to the OMA, medical profession, or public at the community level.

Conferences + Member Participation (select)

October 2015: The third annual **Seniors' Summit** (co-sponsored by TCAS) focused

on the effect of technology on the health care system and Canada's aging population.

October 2015: Inaugural Symposium of the Aging Activisms community at Trent University. Facilitated by May Chazan, this was a dynamic gathering of four generations of women who participated in a cabaret, a roundtable, small group discussions, and story sharing centred around working for social change throughout one's lifecourse.

Autumn 2015: Mark Skinner was the Gary Andrews Visiting Fellow of the Australian Association of Gerontology and was the plenary speaker at the AAG's 48th national conference in Alice Springs, Northern Territory. His plenary, entitled "From panacea to paradox: critical reflections on volunteerism in ageing rural communities," was attended by more than 400 delegates. As a visiting fellow, Mark also gave public presentations on rural aging research for the AAG Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania Divisions in the Gold Coast, Albury-Wodonga and

Hobart. He will be returning for the AAG's 49th national conference in Canberra this November.

March 2016: Sally Chivers presented, "If I only [was] a brain: Dementia on the Silvering Screen. Americanistik, University of Vienna, Austria.

March also saw two visits to Kingston, ON by Centre members. On the 4th, Dr. Stephen Katz was the invited Keynote speaker at the Centre for Studies in Aging & Health conference, "Aging, Are We Doing it Right?" Dr. Katz's talk, "Images of Aging: Ageism, Anti-Aging, and Anti-Ageism" critically examined popular imagery of aging tying it to "neoliberal health agendas, retirement industries and consumer culture where growing older without aging is idealized."

On the 23rd, the Department of Family Medicine and the Department of Geography and Planning at Queen's University hosted an Aging and Health Symposium. Scholars from Sweden



Barb Marshall speaks at Suds N' Speakers

joined Dr. Mark Skinner in a plenary that tackled "the challenges of providing health and social services in Sweden and Canada as their older populations grow." Dr. Skinner's talk, "Panacea, Paradox, Precarity: Volunteerism, Aging and Health in Rural Communities" looked at the challenges faced by rural communities many of which struggle with limited or uneven resources, including reliance on volunteers who themselves are getting older.

March 17: This edition of the Suds N' Speakers series, *Complicating Aging: Invisible Stories of Sexuality, Care and Activism* saw Barb Marshall (*From Decline to Desire: Sexing up the Aging Body*), May Chazan (*From Active to Activist Aging*), and Mark Skinner (*From Panacea to Paradox: Older Volunteers in Aging Communities*) share key insights into their research for an audience of students and faculty. Turnout was exceptional,

and the questions and conversation that followed was intelligent and lively.

April: Jim Struthers was invited to be a panel member at the Ontario Long Term Care Association and Ontario Retirement Communities Association Convention in Toronto. The title of the convention this year was "Together We Care 2016."

May/June: Rachel Barken presented on the topic of the self-care practices of older people with chronic health conditions and impairments: Challenging ideals of successful aging and decline. *51th Annual Canadian Sociological Association Conference*. Calgary, AB.

June: The Sexual Consent Conference is Central and Eastern Canada's first academic and community-based research conference focused on issues of sexual consent from an intersectional, inter-sectorial approach. Hosted by Conference Chair Dr. Terry Humphreys, Canada's sexual consent researcher and professor of psychology at Trent University, and the Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre. TCAS was proud

to sponsor the keynote talk by Dr. Lori Schindel Martin, Ryerson University, on *Sexual Consent, Dementia and Aging*.

In the Media

July 2015, Stephen Katz was an invited guest panelist on Zoomer TV, Toronto. "The subject is Retirement."

10 February: Mark Skinner's CRC appointment was a featured news item on CHEX TV.

16 February: Mark Skinner was featured on Ontario Morning (CBC Radio 1) with Wei Chen (subject: rural volunteerism)

10 March: Barb Marshall's study with Trent U alumna, current St. Thomas University Sociology Professor and new TCAS member, Kristi Allain, investigating the changing view of Canadian curlers was featured in *The Daily Gleaner* (Fredericton, New Brunswick).

5 July: Members, Mark Skinner and Sarah Cullingham were featured in Will Pearson's "Electric City Elders: How Peterborough is Aiming to be a Model

Age-Friendly Community." *Electric City Magazine*, <<http://www.electriccitymagazine.ca/2016/07/electric-city-elders/>>

Funding

2015-2017: Barb Marshall was awarded a \$36,278, SSHRC Insight Development Grant, "Men with Brooms: Masculinity and Aging Embodiment in Canadian Curling" (Co-investigator with Principal Investigator Kristi Allain, St. Thomas University)

May: We announced the funding of six diverse projects through our Strategic Research/Connections Fund.

Supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Aid to Small Universities Grant, the SRF/SCF fund is designed to help facilitate original research in aging studies by TCAS members, enhance Trent University's existing research capacity in the study of aging and old age, and support community engagement that is responsive to the

challenges and opportunities facing older people and aging communities.

2016 Awardees and their project titles:

Dr. Jenny Ingram, M.D. "Comparative Analysis of Publicly Funded Dementia Assessment and Care Services in the Central East LHIN."

Kim English, Trent/Fleming School of Nursing faculty member. "e-Connecting Seniors at Home to Nursing Registries and Support Workers through Senior Friendly Apps Centred on the Seniors' Changing Needs."

Dr. May Chazan, Canada Research Chair in Feminist and Gender Studies. "Interactive Workshop: Aging Activisms Media Capsules."

Dr. Mark Skinner, Canada Research Chair in Rural Aging, Health and Social Care. "Rural Aging: A Research and Policy Primer."



Dr. Peri Ballantyne, Associate Professor, Sociology. "Life Course Trajectories of Ontario Injured Workers with Disabilities: Extending Capacity for Follow-up Research."

Dr. Sally Chivers, Professor, English Literature. "Care Home Stories: Challenges, Changes, and Continuities."

Also, the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough awarded \$10,000 (2016-2017) to Danielle Belair (Community Care Peterborough, principal investigator), Mark Skinner (TCAS collaborator) and Cathy Bruce (Trent School of Education and Professional Training, collaborator), for their study, *Social inclusion for Seniors – Bridging Canadian Generations*.

Looking Ahead

Many exciting projects and visitors are in the offing for the Centre and its members. Our latest **visiting scholar, Ieva Stončikaitė**, arrived in mid-August from the University of Lleida, Spain. Ms. Stončikaitė is a Ph.D. candidate whose project explores and evaluates the ways in which the aging process affects female sexuality, literary creation, gender relations and the body politics in the fictional works of Erica Jong. While at Trent, Ms. Stončikaitė will work under the supervision of Executive Member Dr. Suzanne Bailey.



We also look forward to welcoming visiting scholar Neil Hanlon, Professor of Geography, University of Northern British Columbia in the New Year.

The fourth annual **Seniors' Summit** is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 27 October at Gzowski College. The various ways in which housing affordability, homelessness and poverty impact seniors is the focus of this year's Summit and the Centre remains an active

sponsor of what has become a very popular and vital local event.

Later in the fall our initiative with Canada's National Ballet School (NBS) begins to take shape. **Sharing Dance for Seniors** is about using dance as a means to enhance the health and well-being of seniors by connecting them to NBS trained instructors and, potentially, a live feed of a parent class at the School

in downtown Toronto. A multi-million dollar initiative, TCAS' role in the project is to evaluate the opportunities for arts based interventions to make a positive difference in the lives of isolated rural seniors as well as the challenges of reaching that population. As one of Canada's most rapidly aging places, Peterborough and the surrounding area offers the ideal setting to test such a program.

Ongoing: Centre members will be travelling internationally (Australia, for example) as well as nationally, attending conferences such as the the Canadian Association of Gerontology's 45th Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting in Montreal. This year's theme is "Fostering Innovation in Research on Aging."

An exciting initiative that celebrates the 150th anniversary of Canada by recruiting teacher candidates to deliver talks to Diner Clubs organized by Community Care Peterborough, begins in earnest. The first phase involves selecting the teacher candidates who will deliver the talks and then they, along with Mark Skinner and representatives of the School of Education, will get out to Diner club events in late **November** to generate interest in the first talks scheduled in **March**. This is a terrific intergenerational initiative that's all about sharing stories of Canada in an informal, relaxed atmosphere. It gives

student teachers an exceptional, out of the box practicum experience and engages seniors across the Community Care system in valuable social time. We're thrilled to help facilitate the project with our valued partners at Community Care Peterborough and the School of Education.

Publications

The following is a short selection of the varied and dynamic scholarship published (or forthcoming) by TCAS members.

Ann MacLeod, "Connecting Socially Isolated Older Rural Adults with Older Volunteers through Expressive Arts" *Canadian Journal on Aging*, 35 (1).

Rachel Barken, "Older people's experiences of formal and family/friend care: Reconciling the tensions between needing care and feeling like a burden." *Canadian Journal on Aging*, 36 (1) (forthcoming).



Sally Chivers, "The Show Must Go On: Aging, Care, and Musical Performance in Quartet" *Modern Drama*. 59.2: 213-230

Stephen Katz, Simone de Beauvoir's *The Coming of Age: The Humanities and Gerontology's Diagram of Science*. *Age, Culture, Humanities: An Interdisciplinary Journal* (forthcoming).

Mark Skinner, and Neil Hanlon, eds (2016) *Ageing Resource Communities: New Frontiers of Rural Population Change, Community Development and Voluntarism*. Routledge: London.

May Chazan, Melissa Baldwin, and Jesse Whattam. 2016. *Activisms across Women's Lives: Rethinking the Politics of (Grand)Mothering*. Preliminary Analysis of Activist Oral Histories, 2013-15. Community dissemination report, available on-line at <http://www.agingactivisms.org/#!resources/oxwtg>

"Prescriptive or Interpretive Regulation and the Care Work Frontlines in the 'Three Worlds' of Canada, Germany, and Norway", Tamara Daly, **James Struthers**, Beatrice Muller, Deane Taylor, Monika Goldmann, Malcolm Doupe, and Frode Fadness Jacobsen, *Labour/le Travail*, 77, Spring 2016, 37-71.

Rachel Herron, Mark Rosenberg and Mark Skinner, "The Dynamics of Voluntarism in Rural Dementia Care" *Health & Place* (41) pp. 34-41.

Barb Marshall and Stephen Katz (2016). "How Old am I? Digital Culture and Quantified Aging." *Digital Culture and Society*, 2(1), pp. 145-153.

May Chazan (2015), *The Grandmothers' Movement: Solidarity and Survival in the Time of AIDS*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press.



CHALLENGE THE WAY YOU THINK



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