

Developing and Nurturing Relationships

ANNUAL REPORT 2023–24



UNIVERSITY OF
GUELPH

Live Work Well
Research Centre

Message from the Director



Welcome to our Fourth Annual Report!

In 2023–24, the Live Work Well Research Centre continued to focus on our work to nourish families, livelihoods, and living environments, as well as to nurture and develop partnerships.

We celebrate students like Kathryn Reinders, Kaitlyn Pothier, Amy Kipp, Malissa Bryan, and other graduate and undergraduate students who have built from their work with the Centre to share knowledge and support partnerships. We look forward to more opportunities to bring students into the Centre and to build networks of knowledge sharing and caring.

We recognize and honour the leadership, publications, and teaching of professors Roberta Hawkins, Kim Anderson, Leah Levac, Adam Davies, and Orion Neustifter on how to create safer spaces and take caring actions in universities, the North, and our communities. We are grateful for their contributions to each Cluster in the Centre.

We support and amplify the work of our partners and our collaborations, including through the Storied Lives podcasts, the Reimagining Livelihoods Forum and upcoming website, the Gender-based Indigenous Intersectional Impact Assessment (GiiiA) Network, and the Hummingbird Feminist Disability Coalition. We look forward to opportunities to strengthen these partnerships and build new ones.

We share accessible knowledge widely through newsletters, blogposts, and events and use these to nourish existing relationships and develop new ones.

In the pages below you will find details of all these activities. They demonstrate that we are stronger together as we initiate, develop, and share our knowledge and research.

We look forward to more opportunities in 2024–25 to work together to explore the effects on diverse families and individual well-being, changes in work and livelihoods, factors that shape work and family relationships, needed policy changes, and community actions.

Deborah Stienstra

Director, Live Work Well Research Centre
Jarislowsky Chair in Families and Work





Our Vision, Work, and Values

Our Vision:

Through our research and Centre activities, we connect with and cultivate communities to allow diverse families and kin, lives and livelihoods, and living environments to flourish.

Our Work:

Anticipating, learning, and being responsive to the changing needs of diverse families and kin, lives and livelihoods, and living environments through research, teaching, and accessible knowledge sharing, including policy-relevant and community-engaged activities.

Our Values:

In addition to the values identified in the 2017 College of Social and Applied Human Sciences (CSAHS) Strategic Plan, the Centre values:

- Recognizing the persistent and unequal effects of colonization on Indigenous peoples and all others
- Pursuing reconciliation and decolonization through our work
- Engaging in research that centres individual lives and communities
- Centering care and acknowledging our care responsibilities and care needs in the work we do
- Responding to the care needs and diverse responsibilities of our members and ourselves drawing on feminist, Indigenous, disabled, queer, critical race, intersectional, and community approaches
- Situating our disciplinary and interdisciplinary research within these approaches
- Modelling and strengthening equitable, respectful, and reciprocal relationships near and far
- Advancing opportunities for students and interested communities to grow, share, and collaborate
- Supporting the well-being of our members
- Reflecting on where we have been and where we want to go together
- Celebrating our collective successes

Our Strategic Plan 2023–27

We invite you to [read the Strategic Plan 2023–27](#) on our website.



Around the Centre – Arrivals and Departures

Arrivals



Vanessa Bonham

Our work-study student, Vanessa Bonham (she/her), started in September 2024. Vanessa is working on her undergraduate degree in English; at the LWWRC, she focuses on communications as well as on developing composite stories for one of our research projects, Reimagining Livelihoods.



Kerri Shimmon

Kerri Shimmon (she/her) joined the Live Work Well Research Centre as Administrative Assistant in September 2024. With over ten years of administrative and management experience supporting production teams in the media industry, Kerri is eager to support the research and operations of the Centre at the University of Guelph.

Departures

Siobhan Grant

We are thankful to have worked with Siobhan Grant (she/her), who departed the Centre in April 2024 after working with us as Project Coordinator for the Canadian Feminist Disability Coalition (CFDC) since November 2021. Siobhan provided invaluable support for this exciting and meaningful project to build leadership and advocacy skills of diverse women and girls with disabilities so they could become agents for their rights in Canada. She saw the successful transition of the CFDC in March 2024 to become the Hummingbird Feminist Disability Coalition (HFDC) with the Disabled Women's Network (DAWN) of Canada. Siobhan is now working toward a Master's degree in European Studies at the University of Guelph, researching accessibility in European cultural institutions. We wish Siobhan the best with the rest of her studies.

Madison Harrison

Madison Harrison (she/her) worked diligently as the Communications and Research Assistant for the LWWRC from September 2023 to April 2024, supporting the Centre's knowledge mobilization initiatives through social media, blogs, and the website. Madison graduated from the University of Guelph in 2024 from her undergraduate degree in Environmental Governance (EGOV), minoring in Political Sciences with a focus in Indigenous Environmental Governance and Inclusion. She is currently working on a Paralegal Certificate in Law at Fanshawe College, and she continues to be passionate about how environmental and climate change concerns can be alleviated through policy. We congratulate Madison on her success and wish her luck for the future.

Sakhi Sanghvi

Sakhi Sanghvi (she/her) joined us as a Co-op student from January to April 2024. In Sakhi's role as a Research and Content Coordinator, she developed content for the Reimagining Livelihoods multimedia platform and participated on the Reimagining Livelihoods Advisory Committee. We appreciate Sakhi's contributions to those early stages of the Reimagining Livelihoods project. After finishing her Co-op with us, she contributed a blog to the LWWRC Notes from the Field on her experience at the LWWRC. We wish Sakhi all the success in continuing her undergraduate degree in Psychology at the University of Guelph.

Mabel Mechery

We are grateful to have worked with Mabel Mechery (she/her) from May to August 2024 for her Summer Co-op placement. In her role, she worked on LWWRC Communications and contributed to the Reimagining Livelihoods multimedia platform, launching in 2025. For the multimedia platform, Mabel worked on creating composite stories on livelihoods developed from research conducted on the lived experience of women and girls with disabilities. Although Mabel has returned to classes, she continues to show her support for the Centre's goals by acting as a member of the Reimagining Livelihoods Advisory Committee. We wish her the best as she completes her undergraduate degree in Honours Psychology at the University of Guelph.

Abimbola Sanni

We are lucky to have had Abimbola Sanni (she/her) join us from January to September 2024 as a part-time administrative assistant in the LWWRC. With her diverse educational and professional background in Administration, Client Services, and Information Technology, Abimbola supported many of the Centre's projects and activities, including helping to organize the successful EDID-GHDI Partnership Team Meeting in South Africa in July 2024. Abimbola is now working for the City of Kitchener. We wish Abimbola luck on all of her future endeavours.



Kirsten Van Houten

Dr. Kirsten Van Houten (she/her) was the post-doctoral researcher with EDID-GHDI, Political Science, and the Guelph Institute of Development Studies at the University of Guelph since August 2023. Kirsten's experience in studying and collaborating with local communities mobilizing for peace and human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Philippines, Palestine, India, Canada, and elsewhere contributed greatly to the EDID-GHDI partnership. During her post-doc, she developed a new research program that explores the way disabled women and girls have organized individually and collectively to have their interests represented in peacebuilding and post-conflict development in the DRC. Additionally, in her time with us, Kirsten completed *Hand in Hand? Canada at the Human Rights and Peacebuilding Nexus*, a book she co-edited with Alex Neve. As of November 2024, Kirsten is an Assistant Professor in Global Development Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies at the Abbotsford Campus of the University of the Fraser Valley in British Columbia, and will continue research that aligns with the EDID-GHDI partnership. We wish Kirsten much success.

Leah Connor

Leah Connor (she/her) worked with us as the inaugural graduate student in the role of Research Cluster Liaison from May to December 2024. Her support was invaluable in organizing the LWWRC Cluster Gathering in the fall of 2024, bringing together the Centre's five Research Clusters to share successes and future plans. Leah has a diverse professional background in social work, academia, and public service, and is a PhD student in the Social Practice and Transformational Change (SOPR) program (currently on leave). It was a pleasure to have worked with Leah, and we wish her luck in her future pursuits.

Research Activities

The LWWRC strategic goal for Research Activities is to support Cluster and cross-Cluster research activities in line with our Vision and Values. As part of our Strategic Plan, Cluster Leads ensure the vibrancy and functioning of their respective Cluster and work with other Clusters in cross-Cluster activities. The Centre provides resources and support for the five intersecting Research Clusters; brings Clusters together annually to imagine, reflect, prioritize, and allocate support for research activities; amplifies these activities through knowledge mobilization, grant administration, and coordination, in consultation with the CSAHS and University research offices; and initiates Centre-wide activities where appropriate.



LWWRC research is focused on five intersecting Research Clusters.

Research Cluster Leads and Co-Leads



**Dr. Kim Anderson
(she/her)**

Cluster Lead,
“All My Relations”
Indigenous Ways
of Knowing



**Dr. Leah Levac
(she/her)**

Cluster Co-Lead,
Displacements,
Emergence, and
Change



**Dr. Deborah Stienstra
(she/her)**

Cluster Co-Lead,
Displacements,
Emergence, and
Change | Cluster Lead,
Disabilities, Access,
and Inclusion



**Dr. Roberta Hawkins
(she/her)**

Cluster Co-Lead,
Reimagining Care



**Dr. Amy Kipp
(she/her)**

Cluster Co-Lead,
Reimagining Care



**Malissa Bryan
PhD Candidate
(they/them)**

Cluster Co-Lead,
Sexual and Gender
Diversity



**Dr. Adam Davies
(they/them)**

Cluster Co-Lead,
Sexual and Gender
Diversity



**Dr. Orion Neustifter
(they/them)**

Cluster Co-Lead,
Sexual and Gender
Diversity

“All My Relations” Indigenous Ways of Knowing Cluster

Led by Kim Anderson, the “All My Relations” Cluster is focused on Indigenous mentoring and networking as well as providing land-based learning and activities. The Cluster also works to provide space on campus for Indigenous knowledges and practices, with projects that support the development of gardens and ceremonial spaces in the University Arboretum through the building of a grandmother-space research hub called “Nokom’s House.”

Project Highlights

The “All My Relations” research cluster has seen significant progress and activity over the past year, particularly in advancing the Nokom’s House initiative. In January 2024, the Board of Governors approved funding and a budget for the project, with plans to break ground in spring 2025. Biweekly meetings with architects and contractors are ongoing, alongside an active fundraising campaign to support the centre’s development.

Senate approval is currently pending to formally designate Nokom’s House as a research centre for future Indigenous scholars conducting community-engaged research. Once established, the centre will be governed by a Granny’s Council and a broader advisory board of Indigenous scholars to ensure it remains rooted in community priorities.

In parallel, Kim Anderson’s lab received a SSHRC grant to support land-based language acquisition initiatives, led by Shauna Kechego-Nichols and Angela Easby. They are conducting an environmental scan and networking with southwestern Ontario land revitalization efforts to inform their work.

The Decolonizing Place Narratives Collective, in partnership with the Guelph Museum, continues to meet monthly. While renovations at the museum have delayed the exhibition of Kim’s work, the group remains active. As part of these efforts, a billboard art intervention titled *Thatinatón:ni – Where the Rivers Meet* was unveiled in October 2024, marking a significant milestone in their collaborative work.

Publications

Anderson, K., Lator, A., Longboat, S., & Luby, B. (2024). Learning to be good relatives: Building Nokom’s House. In D. Héту, L. G. Zarranz, A. Fayant, & M. Carrière (Eds.), *Living and learning with feminist ethics and poetics today* (pp. 1–14). Edmonton, Canada: University of Alberta Press.

Easby, A., Bergier, A., & **Anderson, K.** (2022). Exploring self-determined urban Indigenous adult education in an Indigenous organization. *Diaspora, Indigenous, and Minority Education*, 17(2), 88–104. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15595692.2022.2055542>

Leddy, L. C., Luby, B., McLeod, K., Stelter, E., & **Anderson, K.** (2023). Refusing Confederation: Indigenous feminist performance as a tool for colonial reckoning and community (re) building. *NAIS: Journal of Native American and Indigenous Studies Association*, 10(2), 5–35. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/nai.2023.a904181>

McLeod, K., Leddy, L. C., Luby, B., Stelter, E., & **Anderson, K.** (2023). “I guess it was unsettling”: Indigenous performance, nationalist narratives and conciliation. *Theatre Research in Canada*, 44(1), 55–81. <https://doi.org/10.3138/tric-2022-0001>

Disabilities, Access, and Inclusion Cluster

Led by Deborah Stienstra, the Disabilities, Access, and Inclusion Cluster takes an intersectional approach to exploring experiences of disability. Cluster projects include livelihoods and disabilities, disability-inclusive development, women with disabilities, and Indigenous approaches to disabilities. The Cluster considers Canadian and international disability legislation and seeks to evaluate and inform social policy to facilitate the inclusion of workers with disabilities. The Cluster highlights the importance of the participation of people with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities.

Project Highlights

The Disabilities, Access, and Inclusion research cluster has made significant strides in advancing understanding and support for disability-inclusive livelihoods and development.

In August 2023, the Reimagining Livelihood Forum was held, connecting the Disability and Livelihoods in Canada (DLC) Partnership Grant with the Live Work Well Research Centre’s broader focus on livelihoods. This forum sparked the formation of an advisory group tasked with guiding the development of a multimedia website, www.livelihoods.ca, which is set to launch in 2025. The website will feature composite stories drawn from interview and survey data collected during two pilot projects that were part of the DLC Partnership Grant.

We also celebrated the launch of the Hummingbird Feminist Disability Coalition (HFDC) in March 2024. With funding from Women and Gender Equality Canada, University of Guelph hosted the development of the [Canadian Feminist Disability Coalition](#) between 2022 and 2024. At the end of the project, the HFDC became part of DAWN Canada. To recognize the work of the Live Work Well Research Centre in this and other projects with women with disabilities, DAWN Canada awarded the LWWRC with a Hummingbird Award.



LWWRC was awarded with a carved wooden box to represent the 2023 Hummingbird Award.



The cluster is also just past the midpoint of the 7-year Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development-Genre, handicap et développement inclusif (EDID/GHDI) partnership, focusing on the experiences of women and girls with disabilities. In July 2024, the team held its second partnership team meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. Deborah Stienstra is leading the Canadian country study within this partnership. Deborah Stienstra and Kathryn Reinders presented on the Feminist Intersectional Livelihoods Analysis framework developed from this research in June 2024 at the Canadian Political Science Association.

Additionally, the cluster is engaged in a new project supported by a New Frontiers in Research Fund subgrant from the University of Toronto. This initiative explores the experiences of people with disabilities in the stages of the COVID pandemic through in-depth qualitative data collection, currently underway. Together, these projects reflect the cluster's commitment to advancing disability-inclusive research and fostering accessible, equitable practices across local and global contexts.

Publications

Pothier, K., & Reinders, K. C. (2024). Complex erasures: Re/Production of disability under settler colonialism. In E. Grafton, J. Melançon, A. Parker, & I-O Fasunhan (Eds.), *Canadian Settler Colonialism: Reliving the Past, Opening New Paths*. University of Regina Pressbooks. <https://opentextbooks.uregina.ca/canadiansettlercolonialism/chapter/complex-erasures-re-production-of-disability-under-settler-colonialism/>

Stienstra, D. (2024). Reflecting on the how questions: Using intersectional methods for policy changes. In R.A. Abay, & K. Soldatić (Eds.), *Intersectional Colonialities: Embodied Colonial Violence and Practices of Resistance at the Axis of Disability, Race, Indigeneity, Class, and Gender* (pp. 252–268). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003280422-16>

Displacements, Emergence, and Change Cluster

Co-led by Leah Levac and Deborah Stienstra, the Displacements, Emergence, and Change Cluster focuses on building inclusive cities, communities, towns, and governance models to respond to displacements that result from resource extraction, lack of living wages, and other broad socioeconomic and political shifts and challenges. The Cluster also examines how communities can be places where diverse families, livelihoods, and all living environments thrive.

Project Highlights

The Displacements, Emergence, and Change Research Cluster continues to advance critical work at the intersections of social justice, community engagement, and policy transformation.

Through support from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, Cluster co-leads Deborah Stienstra and Leah Levac, along with colleagues from the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW), have established the Gender-Based Indigenous Intersectional Impact Assessment (GiiA) Network, which Leah co-directs with Alexandra Bridges, a project manager with Keepers of the Circle. This network, through its activities and website (<https://giiianetwork.ca>), aims to mitigate and improve responses to resource development impacts and advance promising practices in culturally relevant GBA Plus in impact assessment. It currently includes over 50 members representing academia, Indigenous-serving organizations, community groups, consultants, and federal and provincial governments.



A team of scholars including some with lived experience of homelessness and housing insecurity has continued to work on advancing the conversation and practice of centring lived expertise in housing research and policy. Building on a report they published in 2022 about possibilities for reforming the federal National Housing Strategy, the team's recent work includes two new articles. The first is about deep lived experience engagement in advancing



A sign held at Take Back the Night, a global rally and march against gender-based violence that began in the late 1970s.

the right to housing, and was led by Dr. Jayne Malenfant, Assistant Professor at McGill University. “Toward the Right to Housing in Canada: Lived Experience, Research, and Promising Practices for Deep Engagement” was published in the *Engaged Scholar Journal* in 2024. The second, led by Leah, is a forthcoming article about improving understanding of how the “right to housing” is conceptualized by learning from the knowledges of people with lived expertise of homelessness. Amanda Buchnea, doctoral candidate in the Social Practice and Transformational Change (SOPR) program, is contributing to this work through her PhD research on the evolution of community homelessness planning with attention to the role of, and attention to, youth experiencing homelessness. Other team members include Dr. Laura Pin (Wilfrid Laurier University) and Jes Annan (University of Calgary).

Leah is also collaborating with several other graduate students from the SOPR program on projects that explore justice and policy transformations in other policy areas as well. Nealob Kakar, one of these students, is working with the gender justice organization Women at the Centre to explore policy needs and justice through the lived experiences of queer and BIPOC survivors of gender-based violence. Nealob's research was featured in an LWWRC blog, "[Reimagining Policy for QTBIPOC Survivors: 'We Keep Us Safe.'](#)" Over the coming years, more student-led projects will emerge under the cluster's umbrella, addressing how communities assert themselves in policy conversations and reshape policy structures to reflect intersectional justice and community priorities. Watch for these projects as they take shape.

In collaboration with the City of Guelph, and supported by the Guelph Lab, Leah, along with Dr. Winnie Chan (postdoctoral researcher, University of Guelph), Sam Laban, Facilitator of the Guelph Lab, Dylan McMahon, Deputy-Clerk, City of Guelph, and others completed the development of the City of Guelph's new Governance Framework for Advisory Committees of Council. It is designed to inform the City's decisions about forming and learning from resident advisory committees. The framework was adopted by City Council in November 2023 and will be implemented in 2025. It focuses on advancing more deliberative and meaningful engagement with diverse residents in areas of strategic importance to the city.

Finally, the Storied Lives: Shifting Perspectives on Poverty project is nearing completion, with its main output being a series of four podcasts hosted on the Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination website. Listening events that included an opportunity to complete pre- and post-listening surveys as well as to discuss the podcast topics were held at various pop-up locations as well as the Laurier Institute for the Study of Public Opinion and Policy Forum event and at the Guelph Public Library in Fall 2023. A review of the survey data is underway to analyze the project's impact on public perceptions of poverty.

Publications

Fusco, L., Stinson, J., **Levac, L.**, & **Stienstra, D.** (2024). *Gender-based analysis plus in offshore wind development: Data and community engagement strategies for a more equitable future for Nova Scotians*. Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women. <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/documents/p83514/159198E.pdf>

Levac, L., Chan, W. Y., Laban, S., McMahon, D., Coleman, A., & Pek, S. (2023). *A Governance Framework for Advisory Committees of Council*. <https://atrium.lib.uoguelph.ca/items/db86d510-78c4-410f-83dc-73abedc36f0a>

Malenfant, J., Annan, J., Pin, L., **Levac, L.**, & Buchnea, A. (2024). Toward the right to housing in Canada: Lived experience, research, and promising practices for deep engagement. *Engaged Scholar Journal*, 10(2), 1–32. <https://doi.org/10.15402/esj.v10i2.70850>

Reimagining Care Cluster

In our Winter 2023 newsletter, we announced that the Integrating Care and Livelihoods Cluster, co-led by Roberta Hawkins and Amy Kipp, had officially changed its name to Reimagining Care to better reflect the work of the cluster and the directions of the work moving forward. Research in the Reimagining Care Cluster considers how care is, and could be, practiced in academic, community, and digital spaces. It focuses on imagining alternative, more caring futures across these three areas and the transformational potential of everyday practices of care. It considers families, livelihoods, and living environments from feminist, anti-oppressive, and other critical perspectives.

Project Highlights

The Reimagining Care Research Cluster has made notable contributions to the exploration of care practices in academic and community settings over the past year. In summer 2024, co-lead Roberta Hawkins celebrated the launch of her co-authored book with Leslie Kern, *Higher Expectations: How to Survive Academia, Make it Better for Others, and Transform the University*. Roberta is using her sabbatical to facilitate conversations inspired by the book, fostering dialogue on improving academic culture.



Roberta Hawkins (left) and Leslie Kern (right) with their co-authored book.



The cluster also saw the successful collaboration between co-lead Amy Kipp and the community-engaged arts organization Art Not Shame. This partnership led to the launch in August 2024 of *Art as We Are: Creative Community Care*, an exhibition at the Guelph Civic Museum that highlights the transformative power of art in fostering care and connection. The exhibit runs until July 2025.

A zine called “Creating a More Caring University” has been published as a result of collaborations between Reimagining Care Cluster Co-leads, Amy Kipp and Roberta Hawkins, and Displacements, Emergence, and Change Cluster Co-lead, Leah Levac. It is based on a collective conversation during “Imagining a Caring University: A Creative Workshop,” offered as part of the LWWR’s Reimagining Livelihoods Forum in August 2023. The zine uses the contributions of attendees at

the forum to share stories of uncaring universities, already existing moments of care in academia, and some learnings from these moments. The final section, “Strategies for Creating More Caring Academic Futures,” summarizes conversation points and strategy suggestions from participants on how to create a more caring academic future.

Publications

Hawkins, R., & Kern, L. (2024). *Higher Expectations: How to Survive Academia, Make it Better for Others, and Transform the University*. <https://btlbooks.com/book/higher-expectations>

Hawkins, R., & Silver, J. J. (2023). Following Miss Costa: Examining digital natures through a shark with a Twitter account. *Geoform*, 5. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.diggeo.2023.100066>

Hill-Tout, K., & **Hawkins, R.** (2023). Accessorizing development: Fundraising bracelets for international development as a new development responsibility. *The Journal of International Development*, 35(7), 2046–2066. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jid.3768>

Kipp, A., Hawkins, R., & Levac, L. (2024). *Some ideas on creating a more caring university*. E-Zine. https://liveworkwell.ca/sites/default/files/pageuploads/Creating%20a%20More%20Caring%20University%20Zine_CANVA_compressed.pdf

Manzi, M., Ojeda, D., & **Hawkins, R.** (2024). Creating “wiggle-room”: Spaces of care and possibility within the neoliberal academy. *Geoform*, 149. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2024.103962>

Nelson, I. L., **Hawkins, R.**, & Govia, L. (2023). Feminist digital natures. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, 6(3), 2096–2109. <https://doi.org/10.1177/25148486221123136>

Speers, S. J., Lau, L. L., Neufeld, H. T., Servano Jr., D., Go, D. J., **Kipp, A.**, Brubacher, L. J., & Dodd, W. (2023). Caring in crisis: The experiences of local religious leaders meeting community food needs in the Philippines during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Wellbeing, Space, and Society*, 5. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wss.2023.100154>

Sexual and Gender Diversity Cluster

Orion Neustifter, Adam Davies, and Malissa Bryan co-lead the Sexual and Gender Diversity Cluster, which researches the themes of sexuality, gender, sex, and relationships. It considers the intersection of these themes in their diverse forms and how they relate to families, work, and well-being. The Sexual and Gender Diversity Cluster prioritizes the intersectional diversity of sexual and gender identities and seeks to improve the well-being of individuals through high-quality and value-driven research, teaching, mentorship, and community engagement.

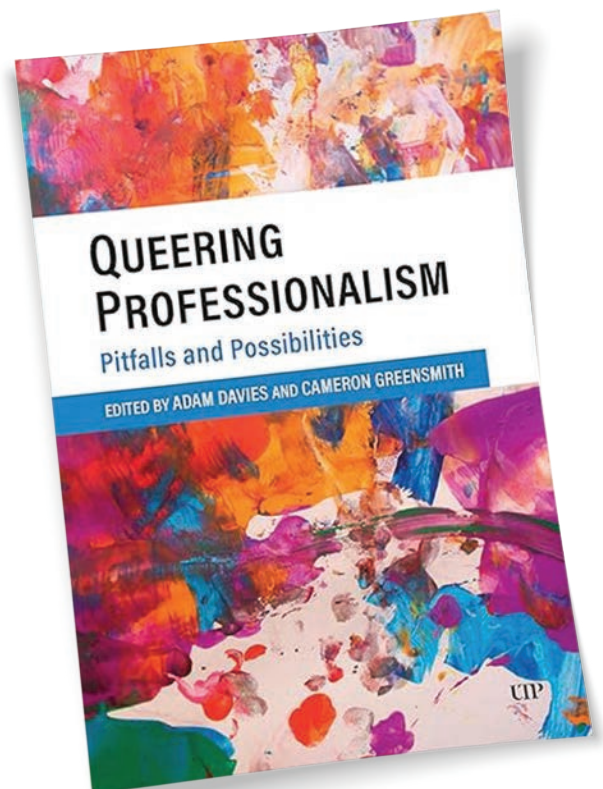
Project Highlights

The Sexual and Gender Diversity research cluster has been actively contributing to research and advocacy at the intersections of education, health, and equity over the past year.

Work continues on reviewing curriculum and policies related to disability and sexual education, with a focus on improving inclusivity and accessibility. In October 2023, the cluster co-leads co-authored “Enhancing Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Students with Disabilities: Insights from Ontario’s Educational Framework” in the international open-access journal *Sexes*. Another paper analyzing Ontario’s Grades 1–8 and 9–12 curriculum through the lens of mental health in sexual education will be published in the *Brock Education Journal*.

In collaboration with the Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC) in Vancouver and the School of Public Health and Social Policy at the University of Victoria, the cluster completed a study on dietary supplement use among gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, queer (GBT2Q) men and non-binary individuals. Using data from an online questionnaire, the study explored types of supplements used, reasons for use, and sources of information. Findings were published in August 2024 in the article “Patterns of Dietary Supplement Use among GBT2Q Men and Non-Binary Individuals in Canada,” aimed at informing better policies for underserved populations.

The cluster’s work also extends into professional and academic spaces. The recent book [Queering Professionalism: Pitfalls and Possibilities](#), edited by Adam Davies and Cameron Greensmith, features a chapter by Malissa Bryan titled “Black, Queer, and Here to Stay: Challenging White Professionalism in Higher Education.” The book adds a critical perspective to ongoing conversations around equity in professional contexts.



Publications

Davies, A. (2023). Love, Simon and failure: Challenging normative discourse and femphobia in gay youth representations. *Sexualities*, 27(8), 1386–1400. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13634607231199409>

Davies, A. (2024). “I just want to be normal!”: A poststructural autoethnographic exploration of queer body image and gynecomastia. *Journal of Critical Dietetics*, 7(2), 16–46. <https://journals.library.torontomu.ca/index.php/criticaldietetics/article/view/2052>

Davies, A. (2024). My heart is my head: Mad-Femme romantic assemblages in queer men’s socio-sexual applications. *feral feminisms*, 14(1), 78–95. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Adam-Davies-19/publication/383201151_My_Heart_is_My_Head_Mad-Femme_Romantic_Assemblages_in_Queer_Men’s_Socio-Sexual_Applications/links/66c0d82f145f4d355361f12b/My-Heart-is-My-Head-Mad-Femme-Romantic-Assemblages-in-Queer-Mens-Socio-Sexual-Applications.pdf

Davies, A., Brass, J., Mendonca, V., O’Leary, S., **Bryan, M.**, & **Neustifter, O.** (2023). Enhancing comprehensive sexuality education for students with disabilities: Insights from Ontario’s Educational Framework. *Sexes*, 4(4), 522–535. <https://www.mdpi.com/2411-5118/4/4/34>

Davies, A., O’Leary, S., Prioletta, J., Shay, B., **Bryan, M.**, & **Neustifter, O.** (2024). Sexuality education for disabled children and youth in Ontario, Canada: Addressing epistemic injustice through school-based sexuality education. *Children and Society*, 00, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1111/chso.12843>

Davies, A., Richardson, B., & Abawi, Z. (2024). Re-imagining the image of the educator in post-secondary early childhood education: calling for epistemic justice. *Pedagogy, Culture & Society*, 32(4), 1013–1031. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14681366.2024.2355100>

Davies, A., Simone-Balter, A., & van Rhijn, T. (2023). Sexuality education and early childhood educators in Ontario, Canada: A Foucauldian exploration of constraints and possibilities. *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*, 24(4), 394–410. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/14639491211060787>

Ghazitabatabai, S. Y., Zaid, M., Forbes, L., **Davies, A.**, Klassen, B., Lachowsky, N. J., & El Khoury, D. (2024). Patterns of dietary supplement usage among GBT2Q men and non-binary individuals in Canada. *Nutrients*, 16(16), 2678. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu16162678>

Greensmith, C., **Davies, A.**, & King, B. (2024). Feeling out of place: queer experiences of belonging in metro Atlanta. *Routledge Journal of Gender, Place & Culture*, 31(7), 1000–1021. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2023.2229527>

Joy, P., & **Davies, A.** (2024). Compassionately fat: an autotheoretical exploration of queer bodies. *An Interdisciplinary Journal of Body Weight and Society*, 13(2), 221–238. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/21604851.2024.2340012>

Student Engagement and Development

The LWWRC strategic goal for Student Engagement and Development is to create and connect with opportunities for students to develop research and collaboration skills, gain experience in community-engaged practices, support and learn from peers, and engage in Centre activities, in collaboration with institutional and community partners. As part of our Strategic Plan, the Centre facilitates and supports opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students to engage in and contribute to Centre and Research Cluster work; students connect and network with other students to incubate their ideas, share their strategies, and provide support and feedback; the Centre explores ways to recognize and celebrate student contributions to Centre and Cluster work through monetary and non-monetary means; and the Centre and Clusters encourage students to present and share research at Centre events or through the Centre's website and social media.

PhD candidate Kathryn Reinders initiated a **Student Network** for students in the EDID-GHDI partnership to encourage ongoing peer-to-peer conversations and exchange of information. The Student Network met in person in Halifax at the Early Career Researchers Forum in November 2023, and in a hybrid format at the July 2024 Partnership Team meeting in South Africa.



Over the past year, the Live Work Well Research Centre continued to attract and engage thoughtful and committed students across disciplines and levels in its research activities, and we are grateful for all their contributions:

LWWRC Co-op Students, Work-Study Students, & Graduate Research Assistants

Vanessa Bonham

Work-Study Student (BA.ENG)

Leah Connor (PhD.SOPR)

Madison Harrison

Work-Study Student (BA.EGOV)

Mabel Mechery

Co-op Student (BA.PSYC)

Sakhi Sanghvi

Co-op Student (BA.PSYC)

Canadian Feminist Disability Coalition

Siobhan Grant (MA.EURO)

Disability & Livelihoods in Canada

Valérie Grand'Maison (PhD.SOAN)

Kathryn Reinders (PhD.SOPR)

EDID-GHDI

Fabian Garcia (PhD.SOPR+IDS)

Valérie Grand'Maison (PhD.SOAN)

Catherine Hall (PhD.PSYC)

Elizabeth Leier (PhD.POLS, UOttawa)

Stella (Hkaung) Naw (PhD.SOPR)

Kathryn Reinders (PhD.SOPR)

Madison Snider

(MA.Critical Disability Studies, YorkU)

Rebuilding Public Trust after COVID-19: Examining Public Health Measures and Their Impacts on Disadvantaged Communities

Maria DiDanieli (PhD.SOPR)

Reimagining Livelihoods

Vanessa Bonham

Work-Study Student (BA.ENG)

Aurora Matteocci (MA.IDS)

Mabel Mechery

Co-op Student (BA.PSYC)

Sakhi Sanghvi

Co-op Student (BA.PSYC)

Storied Lives

Aidan Lockhart (PhD.SOAN)

Community Engagement

The LWWRC strategic goal for Community Engagement is to demonstrate good practices in critical and justice-oriented community engagement. As part of our Strategic Plan, the Centre and Clusters pursue local, national, and international partnerships that model and strengthen equitable, respectful, and reciprocal relationships; create reciprocal and co-learning opportunities and events to reinforce and learn from the existing strengths and skills of community partners and researchers; collaborate on and co-create projects with partners in order to ensure partner benefits (as defined by partners); and establish and strengthen relationships with community partners through Centre-initiated and Cluster-led events.

Partner Spotlight

Our research thrives on the engagement and support of our diverse community partners, whose perspectives, experiences, and expertise inform every stage of our projects. This year, we are delighted to highlight one of these partners.

Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW)

[CCRW](#) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to advancing meaningful and equitable employment for people with disabilities. For more than 45 years, CCRW has supported job seekers with visible and invisible disabilities while assisting employers in hiring and retaining top diverse talent. Through tailored employment services, personalized goal-setting exercises, resume and cover letter development, and customized disclosure and accessibility resources, CCRW serves a wide range of sectors and industries.

In addition to employment supports and services, CCRW is involved in a number of disability initiatives and research including the LWWRC's Disability and Livelihoods in Canada (DLC) research project. The goal of this project, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), is to develop a framework for understanding how people with

disabilities survive and thrive by examining how livelihoods interact with diverse experiences of disability in Canada. The CCRW also participates on the Advisory Committee of the LWWRC's Reimagining Livelihoods project, which shares results from community-engaged research on different forms of livelihoods. In addition, it is a partner organization with the Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development – Genre, handicap et développement inclusif (EDID-GHDI) partnership, contributing valuable research expertise.

CCRW's research team helps with consulting, design and methodology, surveys, tool development, and by conducting data analysis, visualizations, and infographics. Recently, CCRW released a [Disability Confidence Toolkit](#) for employers, providing valuable information on how employers can effectively embed disability initiatives in their workplaces. Subsequently, CCRW's expertise has been sought out by many other public, private, and non-profit organizations including the Government of Canada, the Public Policy Forum, and the Work Wellness Institute.





Communities of Practice

The LWWRC's strategic goal for Communities of Practice is to convene and connect with communities of practice among members of the Centre's community including faculty, students, and community partners to extend our circle of knowledge across a wide spectrum of disciplines as well as scholarly and lived experiences. As part of our Strategic Plan, the Centre collaborates with the CSAHS and University research offices that offer opportunities for students and researchers to build learning networks, workshop early ideas, and learn grant-development and management skills; and seeks opportunities to establish specific communities of practice to facilitate interacting and learning together on a regular basis.

Currently, professors in global development studies at the University of Guelph, Dalhousie University, and the University of Ottawa meet every semester in a **community of practice on disability and global development** to share resources and ideas for bringing disability into their courses.

Knowledge Mobilization

The LWWRC's strategic goal for Knowledge Mobilization is to share knowledge from current and past activities widely, in multiple and accessible formats, reaching diverse audiences successfully. As part of our Strategic Plan, the Centre builds and implements a renewed knowledge mobilization plan and evaluation components. This plan includes maintaining an accessible website that features past and present research work as well as resources for those inside and outside the University; maintaining a social media presence to support the work of the Centre, its partners, and community members; ensuring the Centre is following best and promising practices and continues to mobilize knowledge in innovative and accessible ways; developing and disseminating KMb products that draw upon and highlight Centre and Cluster research; hosting and providing support for Centre-initiated and Cluster-supporting events and workshops; and regularly assessing our relationships and evaluating the effectiveness of our knowledge mobilization strategies with partners inside and outside the university. At our annual Cluster Gathering in the fall, Leads and Co-leads provided updates on their work and shared successes as well as challenges.

During the year, the Centre generated project-related reports, toolkits, policy briefs, factsheets, and infographics to support knowledge-sharing in the community, many of which can be found in the [Knowledge Sharing & Publications section of our website](#). Also read issues of our newsletter, [News that Nourishes](#).

With the support of our communications student staff who act as liaisons with interested blog writers, we were able to collaborate last year on six blogs written by University staff, graduate students, civil society partners, and our own student staff. Following are the blogs published between September 2023 and August 2024: (read our blogs in [Notes from the Field](#)).

"International Day of Persons with Disabilities," written by the Associate Vice-President for the Office of Diversity and Human Rights at the University of Guelph

"The Migration Experience: An Interview with Shruti Nadkarni," on a graduate student's research on the impacts of migration

"Advocating for Indigenous Persons Living with Disability: An Interview with Evelyn Huntjens," on her role with the Disabled Women's Network of Canada and Indigenous Disability Canada to advocate for and provide services for Indigenous persons living with disability

"Navigating Nature and Academia as a Disabled Scientist, a Talk by Dr. Kelsey Byers," on navigating disabilities in the work environment and academia

"Indigenous Language Revitalization and Living Well," on a graduate student's experience with being disconnected from her Native language and on encouraging the use and practice of mother languages to preserve and protect them and promote linguistic diversity and cultural understanding

"Indigenous and Autistic: Nothing About Us Without Us," on the lived experience by a writer and former UofG student of being Autistic and Indigenous

LWWRC 2023–24

Activities at a Glance



335

centre members



5

events



2

newsletters published



480

X/Twitter followers



6

blogs published



2,309

blog views



16,451

website page views

Our Centre members increased by 25% compared to last year, and in fact have increased by about 25% each year since figures were first reported in the 2020-21 Annual Report.

There has been a shift in those who follow us on our social media accounts, reflecting a move away from X for many followers. We currently post on both X and Bluesky to reach the greatest number of people.

We've seen an increase in traffic to our website and blog, with website pageviews up 58% compared to last year, and blog views increasing by over 1000%. The increase in blog views can be credited in part to more focused and consistent social media attention with the publication of a new blog.

The Year Ahead

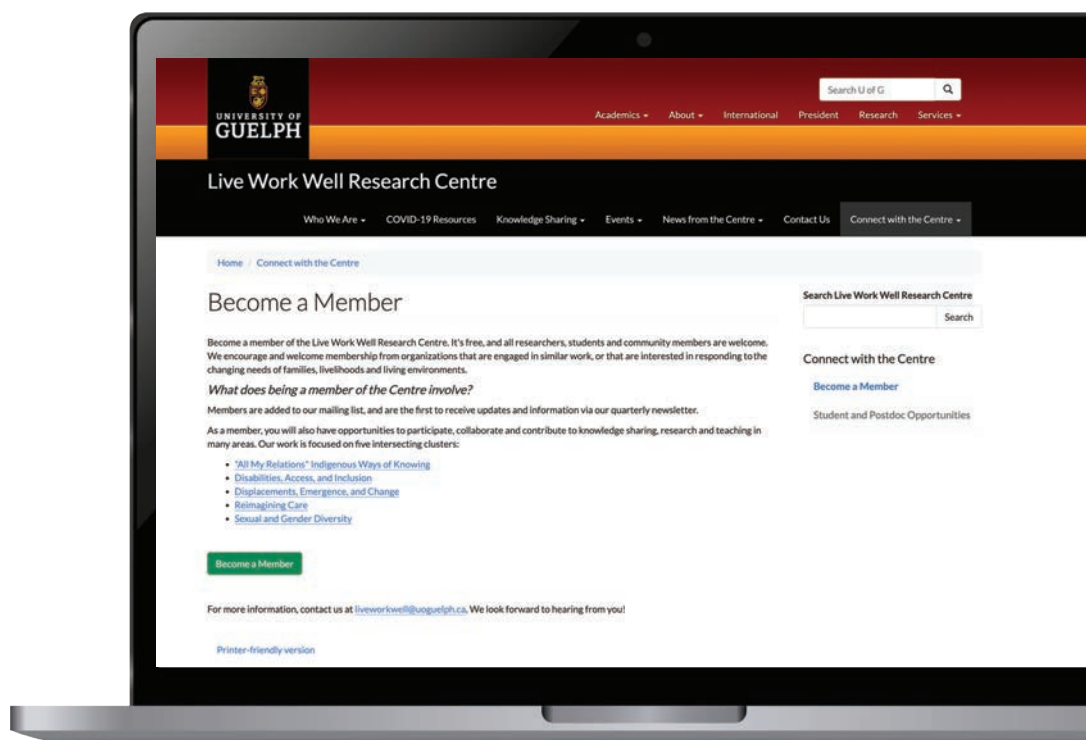
In the coming months, we look forward to continuing to connect with and cultivate communities to allow diverse families and kin, lives and livelihoods, and living environments to flourish. We have research projects finishing up, others on the go, and still others just starting. The LWWRC team is excited to see how the results of Cluster and cross-Cluster research contribute to our focus on livelihoods and well-being.

Become a Member!

Become a member of the Live Work Well Research Centre. It's free, and all researchers, students, and community members are welcome. We also encourage and welcome organizations that are already doing work on—or are interested in responding to—the changing needs of diverse families and kin, lives and livelihoods, and living environments.

Members of the Centre participate, collaborate, and contribute to knowledge sharing, research, and teaching in many areas.


Visit the LWWRC website to sign up at <https://liveworkwell.ca/membership>.





UNIVERSITY OF
GUELPH

College of Social and
Applied Human Sciences
Live Work Well Research Centre

 liveworkwell.ca
 @live_work_well