

TRENT CENTRE FOR AGING & SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Mary Smith, Mayor of Selwyn Township and Amber Colibaba

Next Gen Success

As 2017 winds down and we reflect on what has been an extremely successful year for TCAS, it strikes us that a key strength of the Centre is our membership's capacity to train the next generation of aging studies scholars.

The multidisciplinary team taught "Critical Perspectives on Aging" is wrapping up its third iteration with a class of eighty-two registered students. Two faculty members ran the undergraduate course and eight others contributed modules over the term, including a new offering on Indigenous perspectives on aging.

The Centre welcomed its first cohort of graduate students into the newly launched "Collaborative Specialization in Aging Studies." The core course, "Foundations in Interdisciplinary Aging Studies" was taught by Dr. Stephen Katz. The Centre is also about to launch a certificate in Elder Abuse Prevention in partnership with Elder Abuse Ontario at Trent Durham.

The Centre's first placement students, Mary Blinkhorn and Laura Anderson, completed a significant research project called "Goal-Based Care Planning with Frail Older Adults" in collaboration with the Seniors Care Network in Cobourg.

The Centre's partnership with the Trent School of Education that saw teacher candidates deliver presentations at Community Care Peterborough sites across the county was a smashing success that drew large, appreciative crowds.

TCAS also just had its first graduate student member successfully matriculate (congrats, Melissa!) as did a recent visiting scholar from Spain (congrats Ieva!). Thank you to everyone who has helped make all of these impressive strides in student training possible, and warmest wishes to you all for a happy holiday season.

— Mark, Justin, and Sylvia

In This Issue

Centre Updates.....	2/3
Stephen Katz Distinguished Scholar Program & LGBTQ Research.....	3
Fifth Seniors' Summit & POV.....	4/5
What's Upcoming at the Centre.....	5/6

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

Trent University is an international leader in interdisciplinary aging studies.

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TCAS Researchers Make a Big Impact

Announced in November, TCAS members Barb Marshall and Stephen Katz (*Digital culture and quantified aging*), Elizabeth Russell and Mark Skinner (*Developing rural insights for building sustainable age-friendly communities initiatives*), May Chazan (*Aging, Activisms, and the Archive: Feminist Explorations across the Americas*), and Suzanne Bailey (*Atelier 17, the art of the print, and Canadian modernism*) were among a group of Trent scholars to have been awarded \$782,774 in funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

Dr. Neil Emery, vice-president, Research and Innovation was quoted as saying, "SSHRC's investment showcases Trent's continued commitment to liberal arts and social sciences disciplines with a specific increase in research capacity this year focused on aging and age related research. Congratulations to the group of outstanding faculty who continue to make an impact on our communities locally, nationally and globally."



Ulla Kriebner and Sally Chivers

Member Publications

With seed funding from TCAS' Strategic Research Fund, **Ulla Kriebner** and **Sally Chivers'** book, *Care Home Stories: Aging, Disability, and Long-Term Residential Care* was officially welcomed into the world this autumn at a well-attended launch party at Hunter Street Books.

Sally recently spoke about the project with Catherine Hanrahan, for her *Around the Town* television program. The interview will air in January on YourTV.

Kristi also has a piece forthcoming called, "Taking slap shots at the house: An examination of the consequences of representing curlers as hockey players." In J. Anderson & J. Ellison (Eds.), *Rethinking Hockey: Repenser à Hockey*. Ottawa, ON: University of Ottawa Press.

Mark Skinner, Gavin Andrews (McMaster University), and **Malcolm Cutchin** (Wayne State University) saw their new book *Geographical Gerontology: Perspectives, Concepts, Approaches* published by Routledge.

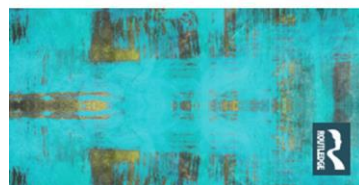
From the book's synopsis: "With contributions from more than 30 leading geographers and gerontologists, the book examines the scope and depth of geographical perspectives, concepts and approaches applied to the study of ageing, old age and older populations [...] This book provides the first

comprehensive foundation of knowledge about the state of the art of geographical gerontology that will be of interest to scholars of ageing around the world."



GEOGRAPHICAL GERONTOLOGY
PERSPECTIVES, CONCEPTS, APPROACHES

Edited by
Mark W. Skinner, Gavin J. Andrews,
and Malcolm P. Cutchin



You will also be able to download a free copy of *Care Home Stories* in New Year through the [Knowledge Unlatched](#) program.

The book, which "challenges stereotypes of institutional care for older adults, illustrates the changes that have occurred over time, and illuminates the continuities in the stories we tell about nursing homes" includes pieces by local authors, **Besty Struthers, Laura Dunbar**, and TCAS executive member, **Jim Struthers**.

Barb Marshall and **Kristi Allain's** research partnership produced 'Buff boys' with brooms shifting representations of masculinity in Canadian mens curling for the "International Journal for Masculinity Studies." The paper argues that "as curling has become increasingly professionalized, there has been a corresponding shift to representations of male curlers that valorize youth, strength and aggression, in contrast to a previous emphasis on maturity and sportsmanship."

Barb and Kristi are currently working on a new piece examining curling spaces as places of contested masculinities for mid and later-life men based on twenty interviews with older men who curl.

Project Update: Sharing Dance

Prof. Mark Skinner's collaborative project with Prof. Rachel Herron, Brandon University (and Trent alumna), and Canada's National Ballet School, *Sharing Dance for Active Seniors* has moved out of its "dress rehearsal" phase and into structured research gathering.

Five Community Care sites across Peterborough County hosted dance sessions every Wednesday morning for eight weeks in October and November culminating in a joyous group dance session at the Gathering Space on November 15.

The project now moves over to Brandon, Manitoba for the next phase of data collection, this time with people living with dementia.

Convocation News

As mentioned in the opening remarks, we are pleased to announce that **Melissa Baldwin** successfully defended her master's thesis, *"This is where the poetry comes out: Examining the Peterborough poetry slam as resistant space-making"* thus earning her Master of Arts degree in Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies from Trent University.

Likewise, **Ieva Stončikaitė** successfully defended her doctoral thesis, *Discourses of Female Ageing in the Works of Erica Jong* at the University of Lleida, Spain.

Launch: Stephen Katz Distinguished Scholar Program

Marking a milestone for the Centre, the [Stephen Katz Distinguished Visiting Scholar in Interdisciplinary Aging Studies](#) Program has been launched to honour the celebrated career of a critical aging studies visionary, and founding member of TCAS. The visiting

scholar program will bring a world-class critical aging studies scholar to Trent every year.

Dr. Stephen Katz, professor emeritus at Trent University, has been described as one of the leading thinkers in the field of



Ulla Kriebnernegg, Stephen Katz, Mark Skinner

gerontology, and is renowned the world over for his significant theoretical and methodological contributions to the global sociology of aging.

"Stephen's contribution to his field and to the founding of TCAS cannot be overstated," says **Dr. Mark Skinner**, director of TCAS.

"With this program, we hope to expose our students, and the broader community, to some of the best minds working in critical aging studies in the world. It's this kind of interaction that helps expand the discipline and move people to think about aging in new ways."

On October 26, a full house eagerly gathered to hear the program's first public lecture by distinguished visiting scholar, **Dr. Ulla Kriebnernegg**, associate professor with the Centre for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz in Austria. The lecture focused on an autobiographical story about dementia that challenges the traditional narrative of decline, and was well received. TCAS executive member, **Professor Barb Marshall** said, "It was inspiring, insightful, and utterly captivating. What a perfect way to launch this initiative!"

"I knew Stephen's work before I knew him," said Professor Kriebnernegg. "His book, *Disciplining Old Age* (1996) is a touchstone in the field. He shaped the field of critical aging studies and I'm very happy and proud to have my name linked with this program and Stephen Katz. It means a lot to my career development."

To establish and endow this lecture, Trent University has launched a \$75,000 fundraising campaign. We need your help to ensure the program is robust enough to attract leading researchers to Trent University every year. [Please consider giving to help make this a reality.](#)

The Hidden Lives of Older Lesbians

According to **Dr. Jane Traies**, Centre for Cultural Studies, University of Sussex, England, the predominant narrative of what it is to be an older lesbian leaves a lot to be desired. Indeed, it's rife with stereotypes and untruths that don't reflect how she sees herself or the women she knows. The same goes for **Dr. Doreen Fumia**, associate professor, Sociology and the Jack Layton Chair at Ryerson University.

Drs. Traies and Fumia joined forces to deliver a much-needed alternate view of life in the older lesbian, trans, and two-spirit communities in Canada and the United Kingdom. They spoke on November 7th to a full house at the Gathering Space in Gzowski College as

as part of the Aging & Society Seminar Series hosted by TCAS. "This is a big part of what the Centre is here to do – shine a light on silent issues, says **Dr. Mark Skinner**, director of the Trent Centre for Aging & Society. "The struggles older people face in terms of receiving the services they need to live their best lives, no matter their background, certainly fits that mandate and we were quite thrilled to host and promote the work of Drs. Traies and Fumia."

Dr. Traies is leading an innovative new study into the real lives of older lesbians living in the United Kingdom.



Doreen Fumia and Jane Traies

Many such women have never had their experiences chronicled as they remain closeted, even to their own families. In addition to studying the lives of older lesbians, Prof. Fumia also includes the experiences of trans, and two-spirit identified people in her research.

A common theme in the work of both scholars is identifying the unmet need that people in these communities have for living in safe, open spaces. Long-term care-homes, which are mostly geared toward heterosexual men and women, simply aren't comfortable places for

many older lesbians, trans, and two-spirit identified people. For too many, the worry is that they will be forced back into the closet in order to get along in these facilities. As one person in Dr. Traies' study put it, "I don't want to do this phase of my life alone, I want to do it with other women, with other lesbians."

Fifth Annual Seniors' Summit

Mental health first aid, dementia and Indigenous peoples, self-management programs, arts-based approaches to social inclusion, and improv – just a partial list of what attendees experienced at the 2017 Seniors' Summit hosted at Gzowski College on October 26.

Organized by Age Friendly Peterborough and hosted by TCAS, this year's summit, titled *Grey Matters: Healthy Minds for Healthy Aging*, attracted more than 200 people to discuss the connection between mental well-being and healthful aging.



Dipika Damerla, Minister of Senior's Affairs

"Mental health is an issue that's top of mind for many of us. It's an issue vital to healthy aging and we need to shine as much light on it as possible," said **Dr. Mark Skinner**, TCAS director. "Our approach at this year's summit is to look at mental health from a variety of perspectives and help foster critical dialogue in each of these areas of research."

Dipika Damerla, minister of Seniors Affairs opened the Summit by saying, "the mental well-being of older Ontarians is a priority of our Government, and we have sought to provide programs that keep seniors, active, healthy, and engaged. At the summit, I am keen to learn from attendee's experiences and better understand what is working well and where gaps in service might exist."

The summit's keynote speaker, **Denise Waligora**, is a mental health first aid (MHFA) master trainer with the Mental Health Commission of Canada. MHFA is the help provided to a person developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. Just like physical first aid is provided until medical treatment can be obtained, MHFA is given until appropriate support is found or until the crisis is resolved.



Seniors' Summit workshop

Other speakers at the day-long summit included: **Dr. Jonathan Bertram**, family and addictions medicine physician with the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health who spoke to the pressing issue of addiction in the senior population, and actor and comedienne **Linda Kash** closed out the day on a positive note with a gut-busting improv session that quite literally explored laughter as a conduit to mental well-being.

"My organization's vision is 'Mental Health for All,' which is why the focus of this

year's summit is especially important to me," remarked **Kerri Davies**, one of

the summit's organizers and manager of development for the Canadian Mental Health Association, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge. "Connecting

current research in this area with our community and front-line workers is incredibly valuable. Mental health is an issue we can all relate to and doing so in a safe, open space like Trent University is as good as it gets."



Janet McCue performs at the Seniors' Summit

POV: Visiting Scholar

Note: This is a new first person feature, let us know if you have a story to share from your own perspective.

My name is **Hanna Varjakoski** and I am a PhD Candidate from the University of

Turku, Finland. This fall term I have had the honour of visiting the Trent Centre for Aging & Society as part of my dissertation work where I investigate the representations of aging in Finnish media culture.

The wish to visit Trent initiated from

from the fact my home university did not offer courses related to aging studies or courses relevant to my study. In order to forward my dissertation with new experiences, I wanted to do an international research visit.

For me, TCAS has offered a unique opportunity to connect with many leading scholars in aging studies and to get collegial support for my research.

I have been so inspired by the innovative, interdisciplinary research that is conducted at the Centre and the visit has given me a great opportunity to share my work with the aging studies community while improving my English.

The benefits of international scholarship are genuinely far-reaching. Not only does it give a good boost to your studies and career but also the whole experience of living abroad, meeting new people and learning new things is invaluable. It is truly an unforgettable experience.

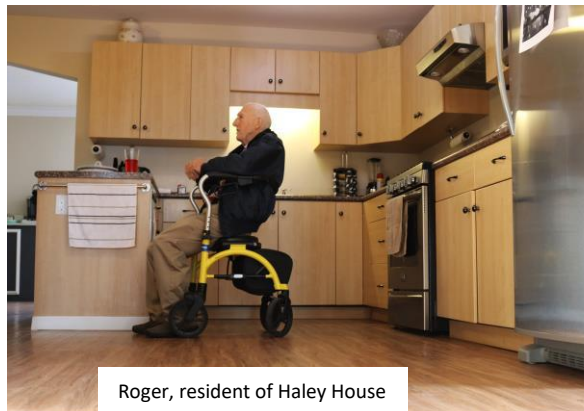


Hanna Varjakoski presents at the Seniors' Summit

Upcoming Symposium: The Challenges of Reintegrating Senior Parolees into the Community

The Centre, in collaboration with the departments of Social Work, Forensic Science, Nursing, and Sociology, as well as the Citizen Advisory Committees (CAC), Correctional Services Canada, and Peterborough Reintegration Services, is hosting *No Place to Call Home: The Challenges of Reintegrating Senior Parolees into the Community and Long-term Care Facilities*.

Scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2018 at Gzowski College, this symposium is meant to shine light on a "silent issue" that has wide-ranging impact. It also represents an issue brought to us by a member of the Peterborough community, retired police officer and



Roger, resident of Haley House

CAC member, **Ted Boynton**. Mr. Boynton has considerable experience dealing with the parolee population and is a champion of the work done locally at Haley House to shelter elderly, frail parolees in their final years and months of life.

Speakers will include, **David Byrne**, executive director of Peterborough Reintegration Services, and **Dr. Crystal Dieleman**, assistant professor, School of Occupational Therapy, Dalhousie University. Dr. Dieleman's research

interests include understanding how to prevent/reduce criminal justice involvement in the lives of people with mental health problems, understanding and improving mental health care in criminal justice settings/services, and defining and building the potential role for occupational therapists in supporting people involved in the criminal justice system.

Correctional Services Canada sees this symposium as filling a pressing need and has agreed to send twenty of its parole office managers to Trent to attend *No Place to Call Home*. The Centre also sees the symposium as an excellent opportunity for students to learn from, and network with, agencies engaged in work with the prison population and parolees. As such, a job fair is being organized in tandem with the symposium.

If you would like to attend the symposium or be involved, please let us know.

Aging & Society Seminar Series

In the new year the Centre will organize its first Aging & Society Seminar Series talk focused on the work of students.

The topic(s), timing, and organization of this special day is open to input.

Your ideas and participation will be very much appreciated, so don't hold back – we'd love to hear from you!

ReFrame Film Festival

The Centre is pleased to be supporting the latest edition of the ReFrame Film Festival. This year, we're sponsoring a short film by Toronto filmmaker **Sheen Starr**.

According to Starr, "A lot of assumptions are made about people based on their age. And because of those assumptions,

a lot of older people start to feel invisible. But age is just a number!

Older people in the LGBTQ2S community face double or triple stigmas. They become invisible not only in society but in their own community. This film, *Older Than What?* is about capturing the thoughts, experiences, struggles, knowledge, sex appeal and charm of older LGBTQs and celebrating it all up there on the big screen."

As an added bonus, recent guest lecturer, **Jane Traies** is featured in the film. Have a look at the trailer [here](#). Get in touch, if you would like to represent the Centre at the screening on January 26.



Innovations in Knowledge Translation

The Age-friendly Peterborough (AFP) Community Action Plan is steaming ahead with the help of four working groups made up of many dynamic community volunteers.

The Centre, through its support of AFP, is leading the development of the plan. Indeed, several TCAS members take part in the working groups.

The "Learning & Contributing" group has identified knowledge translation as one of its key priorities. It was thought, a television program might be an excellent way to dig into the multiple issues/stories contained in the AFP plan and reach a broad audience in Peterborough and beyond.

YourTV (formerly Cogeco) jumped on board and offered its channel as a platform. **Justin Sutton** was asked to help build the production team and get the show up and running.

Justin is now in the process of assembling a team of student interns from the joint Trent/Loyalist Journalism program, as well as from Media Studies. The students will team up with seniors from the working groups who are interested in both learning from, and teaching, their student colleagues.

This is another opportunity for Centre member involvement, either in story generation or participating as guests on the program. Get in touch with Justin, if this is something you would like to help with.



Deana Huntsberger, Kawartha Centre, chats with Gzowski College volunteers at the Seniors' Summit



Sharing Dance at Trent University

CHALLENGE THE WAY YOU THINK



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