

2024 Undergraduate Research Awards - Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Minnie Tsai, Community, Culture and Global Studies (Dr. Shannon Ward)

Transcending Cultural Boundaries: the practice of simultaneity on social media

This ethnographic research explores the impact of social media on community and identity. By presenting how UBCO Chinese International students use social media to simultaneously maintain their home and host identities and build translocal communities, I examine their co-development of a linguistic repertoire through a survey, interviews, and discourse analysis. This study discovers stickers as a resource for Chinese international students to recreate Chinese genre of talk, to build translocal communities, and to enhance cultural sensitivity. In conversation with the framework of simultaneity (Levitt and Schiller 2004), I argue that social media enhances cultural sensitivity and reflexivity in foreign settings.

Belle Chabot, History and Sociology (Dr. Luis Aguiar)

Racial Intolerance in Kelowna: An Ethnographic Study of Indian Students' Experiences

Kelowna's pronounced whiteness and reputation for intolerance has fostered an alienating environment for people of colour, a reality that remains largely unaddressed. This research deepens understandings of ambient racism, which subtly isolates individuals in their daily lives. Through eight semi-structured interviews with Indian students living in Kelowna, the study explores how racism impacts them on a day-to-day basis. Participants reported facing pervasive racial prejudice across various areas of their lives. These findings are crucial for addressing localized racism and contributes broader insights into how racism operates in everyday contexts.

Omana Pisharoty, History and Sociology (Dr. Bonar Buffam, co-supervisor: Dr. Ilya Parkins)

Why Young Women Swallow the Red Pill: Analysing the Aesthetics and Rhetoric of Issue-Framing Within Female-Oriented Antifeminist Subcultures

Tradwives are an increasingly popular group of online content creators that encourage their audiences to embrace traditional gender dynamics. My research explored how they subversively incorporate alt-right logics into their aesthetics and rhetoric, and how audiences perceive this content. I conducted a qualitative study of 150 videos (and corresponding

comments) on TikTok and Instagram, using Critical Discourse Analysis. I found that tradwives perform complex forms of digital, political, aesthetic and emotional labour. Further they use their digital and political savvy to conceal this labour, glorify misogyny, and sway vulnerable populations towards harmful political ideologies.

Sanaa Shaikh, Economics, Philosophy and Political Science (Dr. Jim Rochlin)

Homeland Politics Abroad: Investigating the Impact of Diasporic Mobilisation on Sikh Canadian Immigration

Canada is home to one of the largest Sikh diasporas in the world, one that remains vibrantly politically active, especially regarding the Khalistan separatist movement. This study provides insights into the role personal politics, ideology, and diasporic mobilisation play in motivating individuals' decisions to immigrate. Through six semi-structured interviews with Indian-origin Canadian Sikh immigrants, this study shows that while economic opportunities were the main motivator for immigration, it was exacerbated by the worsening political situation for religious minorities in India. Also, there exists an ideological divide between new and old immigrants, which complicates the nature of diasporic mobilisation for Khalistan.

Osana Ratnaharan, History and Sociology (Dr. Agnieszka Doll)

Mental Health Emergency Visits at the Intersection of Age and Immigrant Status

For many young immigrants in Canada, emergency departments (ED) are the first point of mental health care. To understand pathways leading them to EDs, as well as post-ED access to community mental health services, we conducted a qualitative study with care providers in Ontario. The findings highlight that the mental health care system for young immigrants is fragmented, lacks collaboration between EDs and community care centres, overemphasizes culture over immigration-related stressors, and harmfully demands repeated vulnerability for accessing care. As such, it may prevent young immigrants from seeking mental health care until they reach 'crisis', requiring ED services.

Cody Teichroeb, Psychology (Dr. Zachary Walsh)

Differences in Microdosers and Non-microdosers with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Public interest of microdosing psilocybin mushrooms has outpaced research examining associated health benefits and risks. The present research explores, for the first time, the drug-to-drug interactions between serotonergic antidepressants and microdosing psilocybin. Participants self-identified experiencing depression, anxiety, panic attacks or post-traumatic stress disorder; Additionally, participants indicated if they use Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI) or Serotonin and Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRI), additionally if they microdose psilocybin. Our findings suggested that observed associations between microdosing psilocybin and mental health outcomes were consistent across SSRI/SNRI status. This study will help inform future research to empower individuals to make informed decisions about microdosing.

Emily Fuller, Psychology (Dr. Maya Libben)

Body Empowerment for Gender-Diverse Youth (BEYOND)

Emerging literature reveals increased incidence of body dissatisfaction (BD) and eating disorders (EDs) in gender-expansive youth, yet preventive measures remain understudied. This study gathers feedback on the BEYOND Workshop, a body image prevention program for gender-expansive youth. Youth aged 11-18 and adult service providers were recruited from Etcetera+ Youth Kelowna, a non-profit organization supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ youth. Focus groups will be recorded, transcribed, and analyzed using thematic content analysis, with findings informing workshop improvements. This project directly addresses a community in crisis, and is the first of its kind to seek stakeholder input on a prevention workshop tailored for gender-expansive youth.

Madison Eagle, Psychology (Dr. Paul Davies)

Discrimination of Chronic Pain Treatment and Perceptions: A Preliminary Analysis

Chronic pain (CP) is a debilitating condition affecting about one in five Canadians. However, some individuals endure greater stigmatization than their counterparts. This study aimed to identify patient factors that influence CP perceptions; precisely, a patient's gender (male/female), race (White/Indigenous), and pain origin (specified/unspecified). Participants (N = 118) were assigned to one of eight medical charts depicting a CP patient, and completed perceptual measures regarding the patient and their pain experience. Preliminary data trends suggest that gender, race, and pain origin may play a role in the stigmatization of CP, thus emphasizing biases existent among the lay public.

Cosette Robertson, Psychology (Dr. Zachary Walsh)

Effects of Concurrent Cannabis and Alcohol Use on Psilocybin Microdosing: A Longitudinal Analysis

Psychedelic microdosing is an increasingly popular practice that is understudied. We used longitudinal data from a large observational study to examine the effects of cannabis and alcohol use on psilocybin microdosing outcomes. Expected microdose-related positive effects on mood were maintained after controlling for cannabis and alcohol use. Cannabis use did not impact microdose-related mood changes over one month. Alcohol use interacted with microdosing on measures of negative mood, such that alcohol effects were only evident among non-microdosers. These novel findings suggest that microdosing is not an artefact of concurrent substance use, highlighting the apparent independence and stability of microdosing effects.

Soule Cretney, Psychology (Dr. Lauren Human)

Perceptive Accuracy on Romantic Interest Across Time in Zoom Speed Dates

We are told first impressions matter, but in what ways? Perceptive accuracy – the degree to which one accurately perceives the personality of a target – has been associated with lower romantic interest on first dates, suggesting that accuracy may reduce romantic interest. However, it is unclear whether any negative effects of accuracy persist beyond the first date. This study aims to determine the longer-term influence of perceptive accuracy on romantic interest, employing a two-part speed-dating study conducted via Zoom with young adults. This research will shed light on whether accuracy reduces romantic interest over time, thereby hindering romantic relationship development.