

In Your Eyes: Community Approaches to Research in Mental Health and Addictions

Thursday, March 5th, 2009 • 9 am - 4 pm
Asia Pacific Hall • Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue

Morning Speaker Bios

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Bonnie Duran

Associate Professor, School of Public Health and Community Medicine
Director, Centre for Indigenous Health Research, Indigenous Wellness
Research Institute
University of Washington, USA



Dr. Duran has worked in public health research, evaluation and education among Native Americans and other communities of colour for 27 years. In the past 10 years, she has conducted studies of mental disorder prevalence, victimization risk factors and treatment-seeking among Native American women attending Indian Health Service primary care facilities and men and women from rural reservation communities. The overall aims of her research are to work with communities to design treatment and prevention efforts that are empowering, culture-centered, assessable and sustainable.

In addition to her epidemiological research, Dr. Duran has worked with the Navajo Nation, Indian Health Service and community based organizations on projects aimed at providing integrated mental health and HIV services in a frontier rural setting. She is currently collaborating on a national study into the mechanisms of community based participatory research and community based institutional review boards. Dr. Duran moved to the University of Washington from the University of New Mexico in 2007.

Dr. Erin Michalak (pronounced mi-HA-lak)

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry
University of British Columbia



Dr. Michalak is the Network's Community-based Research Hub Coordinator. Her research interests are in bipolar disorder, quality of life, seasonal and non-seasonal depression, community-based research and the development of outcome instruments for mood disorders.

Dr. Michalak holds a Scholar award from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) and a New Investigator award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). She leads the MSFHR-funded "Collaborative REsearch Team for the study of psychosocial issues in Bipolar Disorder" (CREST.BD) network, and has over 40 scientific articles published or in press.

Dr. Amy Salmon

Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Population and Public Health
University of British Columbia

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Centre for Community Health Promotion Research
University of Victoria



Dr. Salmon's research focuses on factors that inform access to, and provision of, health information, maternity care, and primary healthcare for women who use drugs. She is currently conducting several community-based, participatory research projects, including The VANDU Women Clinic Action Research for Empowerment (VANDU Women CARE) study, a participatory action research project focused on substance-using women's experiences of primary healthcare in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Her research team's goal is to increase understanding of how to improve health services for women with substance-use problems, to foster dialogue between women who use illicit drugs, health care providers and policy makers, and to identify opportunities to enhance continuity of care between primary health care, harm reduction services, and related health and social services. In addition to her academic appointments, Dr. Salmon is Managing Director of the Canada Northwest FASD Research Network and Addictions Research Unit Manager at the Women's Health Research Institute.

Co-Presenters with Dr. Amy Salmon:**Jackie Robinson**

VANDU (Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users) Women's Group
BC Association of People on Methadone

DJ Joe

VANDU Women's Group

Hajera Rostam, MA

Doctoral Student, Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology
University of British Columbia



Hajera Rostam is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology at UBC. Her research focuses on the help-seeking experiences of Canadian ethnic minority immigrants with alcohol-related problems.

Hajera is a refugee from Afghanistan, who settled in Canada in 1996, supported by a scholarship from the World University Service of Canada Student Refugee Program. She has been a member and volunteer with nonprofit immigrant and refugee groups and has worked as an addiction counsellor serving diverse communities in Vancouver.