

THE BC ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS 2020 CONFERENCE

The Profession of Social Work Roaring into the Twenties!

March 13-14, 2020

Pacific Gateway Hotel at Vancouver Airport, 3500 Cessna Drive, Richmond, BC



FRIDAY MARCH 13, 2020 – PLENARY SESSION

GREEN SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVES IN DISASTER INTERVENTIONS: PRACTITIONERS' RESPONSES TO 21ST CENTURY CHALLENGES

Lena Dominelli, University of Stirling, Scotland

Disasters are increasing in frequency, intensity and scope. Every country is subject to disasters, although they vary according to topography and human activities within them. Responses are context specific, locality-based although this may traverse the local and the global, and are culturally relevant. In this presentation, I argue that social workers must prepare their responses to 21st century challenges embedded in 'natural' and (hu)

man-made responses and engage with other scientific disciplines and a range of stakeholders to co-produce solutions that will be owned by local communities. I exemplify some responses that depict green social work perspectives in moving forward and draw out lessons learnt for daily routines.

Professor Lena Dominelli holds a Chair in Social Work at the University of Stirling. She has a specific interest in projects on climate change and extreme weather events including drought, floods, cold snaps; wild fires; earthquakes, volcanic eruptions; disaster interventions; vulnerability and resilience; community engagement; coproduction and participatory action research. Among other research projects, she was PI on the ESRC funded project entitled *Internationalising Institutional and Professional Practices*, and as CI on the EPSRC funded project entitled, *Climate Change, the Built Infrastructure and Health and Social Care Provisions for Older People* (BIOPICCC), a CI on the interdisciplinary NERC-ESRC funded, *Earthquake Without Frontiers* project, and CI on the Department of Health and Wellcome Trust funded project, *Health Interventions in Volcanic Eruptions* (HIVE). Her most recent publication is *Green Social Work* (Polity Press, 2012), and the edited collection, *The Routledge Handbook on Green Social Work* (Routledge, 2018). Professor Dominelli was elected President of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) from 1996 to 2004, and currently chairs the IASSW Committee on Disaster Interventions, Climate Change and Sustainability and has represented the social work profession at the United Nations discussions on climate change.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Friday, March 13

8:00 am	Registration & Exhibits
8:15 – 9:30	Welcome & Morning Plenary
9:30 – 10:00	Break/Exhibits
10:00 – 12:00	Workshops
12:00 – 1:15	Lunch
1:15 – 5:15	Workshops
5:30 – 6:45	Poster Presentations/Student Meeting
7:00 – 9:00	Prohibition Social at the BCASW Speakeasy

Saturday, March 14

8:00 am	Registration & Exhibits
8:15 – 9:30	Morning Plenary
9:30 – 10:00	Breaks/Exhibits
10:00 – 12:00	Morning Workshops
12:00 – 1:15	Lunch
1:15 – 3:15	Afternoon Workshops
3:15 – 3:30	Break/Exhibits
3:30 – 4:00	Closing

CHOOSE A, B, OR C FROM THE FRIDAY DAY-LONG WORKSHOPS:

A. A DAY ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Multiple speakers will address social workers with specific considerations for neurodiversity, culturally diverse communities, sexual and gender diversity, disability/ability.

Hosted by **Leya Eguchi, MSW, RSW**, Director of Services, Hollyburn Family Services Society

Topics and Speakers include:

SEXUAL AND GENDER DIVERSITY IN SOCIAL WORK: BUILDING A FOUNDATION

This session will address foundational knowledge and skills for engaging in sexuality and gender affirming social work practice with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, and other sexual and gender minority (LGBTQ2S+) communities. The session will introduce participants to the language often used to describe LGBTQ2S+ identities, and salient social and health issues

currently affecting LGBTQ2S+ communities. It will acquaint participants with a broad framework for understanding issues and needs of LGBTQ2S+ communities, and outline models for engaging with LGBTQ2S+ persons and to challenge homo/bi/transphobia at multiple levels of practice. Participants will have the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills covered in this workshop in a series of case scenarios.

Antoine Coulombe, MSW, BSW, RSW, Instructor and Chair of BSW, UBC; **Hannah Kia, PhD, RCSW**, Assistant Professor, UBC

ALLYSHIP IN CLINICAL PRACTICE: EMPOWERMENT, IDENTITY, AND LANGUAGE

Practitioners can build skills to actively ally themselves with clients and to engage in progressive and anti-ableist dialogue with their colleagues and communities. We aim to encourage practitioners to view their role as one which involves learning from their clients and from the disability community, as well as guiding clients in resilience-building in the face of ableism.

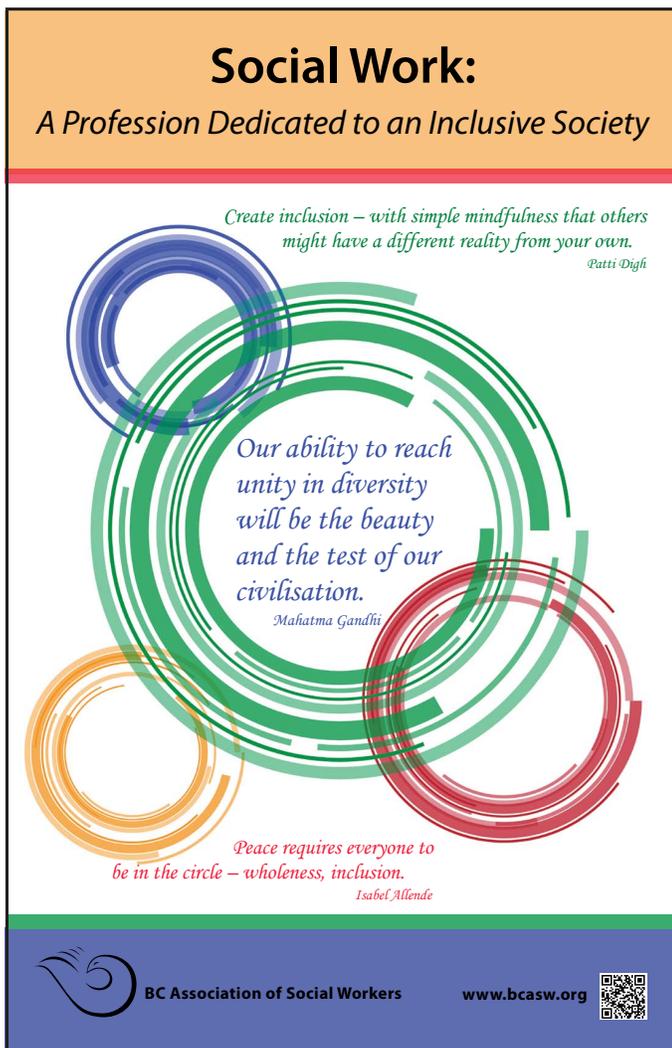
Chantal Vien, MSW student; Ocean Connolly, MA student

SUPPORTING NEURODIVERSITY: CONSIDERATIONS AND INNOVATIONS FOR SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

The term *neurodiversity* has become more widespread and is considered a key theme for professionals across disciplines who hope to better support clients presenting with neurological differences including those diagnosed with autism/Aspergers, giftedness, sensory processing disorder, and ADHD. Neurodiversity as a label moves away from the traditional biomedical understanding of these diagnoses towards a conceptualization of difference that embraces uniqueness in neurological functioning and ways of perceiving and navigating the world. As we move into the next decade, it is important that social workers

are equipped to understand and meet the needs of our neurodivergent clients. Unfortunately, significant gaps in knowledge and training have been identified which may preclude social workers from feeling confident and competent to work alongside clients with neurodiversities. This presentation will be relevant for social workers across settings who are interested in enhancing their practice approaches and considering opportunities for innovation to better work alongside clients with neurodiversities. Participants will engage in discussions and activities and will be provided with information and resources to continue their learning and growth beyond the session.

Rae Morris, PhD (Cand.), RCSW, Individual & Family Therapist in Private Practice



WORKING WITH DIVERSE CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

South Vancouver Neighbourhood House is a bustling community hub in one of Vancouver's most diverse neighbourhoods. Three staff members from SVNH will share practical ways that they promote diversity and inclusion at SVNH.

Koyali Burman, MA, Engagement Officer. She has a strong background in community engagement and leadership and has been an active contributor to Diversity & Inclusion work in the settlement & integration sector. She sits on the Board of Directors at AMSSA.

Mimi Rennie, Director of Community Programs. Mimi is a 2nd generation Chinese Canadian, whose parents emigrated from Malaysia to Fort Mc Murray, Alberta. She continually questions her parents about what possessed them to go so far North. Mimi is skilled at using community engagement and leadership techniques to promote diversity and innovation at SVNH.

Zahra Esmail, Executive Director. Zahra has experience working in international development and with diverse communities in Toronto and Vancouver. She is passionate about creating environments where people can celebrate what they have in common and what makes them unique.

ATTACHMENT AND HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

The final session offers an exploration of the problem that separation (lack of inclusion) creates for us as emotional and relational beings.

Deborah MacNamara, PhD, RCC, Director, Kid's Best Bet Counselling and Family Resource Centre & Faculty, Neufeld Institute

B. FOUNDATIONS IN CYBERCOUNSELLING



This full day workshop will provide participants with a solid grounding in the ethics, theory, research, and practice of online counselling. Participants will learn about computer and Internet security and other important aspects of the technology. The variety of online methods will be compared and contrasted with consideration given to ethical and practical issues specific to video counselling. Policies and procedures relevant to the adoption of online counselling will be reviewed. Attention will be given to establishing and strengthening the therapeutic alliance in text. Time will be spent covering clinical techniques that improve the therapeutic effectiveness of text-based methods like email and text-chat with a specific focus on the Presence Techniques. In particular, methods for compensating for the absence of tone of voice and non-verbals in email and chat/instant messaging counselling approaches will be explored.

You will learn:

- To identify ethical issues unique to online service delivery
- A process for developing policies and procedures for online services
- To describe important technological considerations in the use of web-based services
- Ethical and practical challenges in video counselling
- Important advantages that online therapy has over face to face therapy
- To explain significant theoretical considerations in online work
- A variety of strategies and techniques for establishing and enhancing the therapeutic alliance in the online environment

Lawrence Murphy is the founder of Worldwide Therapy Online, the world's first online clinical practice, which was established in 1994. In collaboration with the National Board for Certified Counselors, he authored the first ethical code for online counselling. Through Therapy Online's Research Institute, Lawrence and his colleagues publish regularly in the academic literature, including their seminal 1998 work *When Writing Helps To Heal: Email as Therapy*, which has been cited more than 300 times. Therapy Online delivers 2 levels of training in cybercounselling. To date they have trained more than 1000 clinicians worldwide. Therapy Online also licenses software to individuals and agencies keen to deliver services online. Lawrence received his MA in Counselling Psychology from UBC in 1995 and holds an adjunct appointment and teaches in the Faculty of Social Work at U of T.

C. APPLYING THE DSM-5 TO CLINICAL PRACTICE



This full day workshop focuses on developing initial competency in using the classification system of the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (DSM-5). The course is a good beginning to preparing for the clinical exam for registration as a Registered Clinical Social Worker with the BC College of Social Workers and will deepen understanding of the work of the interdisciplinary team in health care, mental health, and substance use treatment.

Dr. Christiana Bratiotis is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at UBC. She pioneered work in the formation and operation of multi-disciplinary community hoarding task forces, highlighted in her book titled, *The Hoarding Handbook: A Guide for Human Service Professionals*. She is the leading global authority on implementing community-based interventions for hoarding and her current research interests focus on hoarding treatment and intervention efforts in the context of affordable housing and community-based organizations. Throughout her academic career, she has taught courses in clinical practice with individuals, families and groups, mental health policy, and social analysis. In addition to her scholarly work, she has practised for over ten years as a cognitive behavioural therapist. Currently, Dr. Bratiotis supervises students who provide clinical treatment and she offers national and international consultation on hoarding behaviour to families and communities.

FRIDAY EVENING

Join the **POSTER REVIEW** on Friday.

Presenters will have ten minutes to showcase their display.

Or, if you are a student, attend the **STUDENTS MEETING** with **Raymond Cauchi**, student representative to the BCASW Board.



PROHIBITION SOCIAL: Sign up for the BCASW Speakeasy beginning at 7 pm!

Punch and finger food served.

Dress for the 1920s or 2020s and enjoy the music.

Cash bar but watch out for raids!

SATURDAY MARCH 14, 2020

CHOOSE ONE SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

1. GREENING URBAN CITYSCAPES: GREEN SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVES

The world is becoming increasingly urbanized. Today, most of the world's population lives in cities. Developers argue that high density, horizontal buildings are the best way of catering for the needs of the urban population. To what extent can green social workers take these claims at face value? In this seminar, we will consider how we can make Vancouver more beautiful and green. The city is not one of the worst offenders. It has a heritage of caring for the environment while population density has increased to make the city one of the most heavily populated per hectare of land in the world. One of the world's most renowned environmentalists, David Suzuki, lives in its midst. But can it rest on its laurels given the dangers of climate change – flooding, drought, heatwaves, cold snaps; loss of agricultural land to shopping malls and high density housing; centralized job opportunities and public services, especially medical ones; air pollution, including that arising from surrounding wildfires like that of the 2018 summer when 40% of BC was under wildfires? Then there are the ever-present dangers of earthquakes and ensuing tsunamis, volcanic action. This workshop will consider this question, using small group exercises and resources.

Lena Dominelli, ACSS, PhD, CQSW, University of Stirling

2. INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO WORKING WITH CHILDREN: STRATEGIES THAT WORK

Working with children requires creative insight in order to effect behaviour change. Traditional psychotherapy strategies seldom work because of the variety of problems, fears abounding in the child, and a host of other issues. The key to success is to think like a child, and develop intervention methodologies that are reflective and congruent with the child's developmental stage, personality, and individual style. Humour and dynamic role-play are effective and often inspiring. Getting the child-client "on board" with the practitioner is the key to effective change. This involves dynamism, energy, creativity, and being mindful of who the child is and how they think. Problems such as childhood anxiety, significant increases in the numbers of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and an increase in school refusal issues combine to make the social work clinician an important resource to our next generation.

Jenifer Wilson, BSc, BSW, MSW, RSW, JWil Counselling Services

3. SOCIAL WORK IN RURAL PRIMARY CARE

Primary care (community-based health care directed by a primary care provider such as a physician or nurse practitioner) is changing in British Columbia. Social work is championed by the Ministry of Health as a key discipline to support physicians. This workshop will describe roles and responsibilities for social workers embedded in primary care settings including team-based care, working with PCPs, patient-centred interventions, and working outside typical health authority practice settings. The workshop will be hosted by a GP/social work team who have worked together in a rural setting over the last five years to develop this new model for British Columbia.

Cayce Laviolette, MSW, RSW, Dr. Jane Bishop

4. THE NATIONAL CODE OF ETHICS AND TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION (One hour)

The last major revision of the CASW *Code of Ethics* was completed in 2005 under the leadership of Beverley Antle. The CASW Federation made the revision of the 2005 *Code of Ethics* and companion *Guidelines for Ethical Practice* a strategic priority. The CASW Board made the decision that any revision must be grounded in the principles of Truth and Reconciliation as articulated by the Commission. This session will overview the ongoing commitment of CASW to reconciliation while outlining the revisioning process to date. It will serve as an opportunity for participants to provide input to the process and share what they would like to see reflected in the next national *Code of Ethics*.

Fred Phelps MSW, RSW, CAE, Executive Director, CASW; **Noela Crowe-Salazar**, Pimatisiwin Consulting and Counselling

5. THE USE OF VIDEO IN COUNSELLING PRACTICE

This workshop will explore some of the art and technological aspects of video counselling. Tools for establishing a sense of presence, empathy, and utilizing the body as a resource in video counselling will be explored, using case examples.

Mary Leslie, RSW

CHOOSE ONE SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

6. RESOLVING DILEMMAS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LAW AND SOCIAL WORK ETHICS

Understanding the legal system is important for all social workers regardless of where they work. Knowing how to recognize legal issues and to anticipate related ethical or practice implications enables social workers to effectively support clients or develop strategies for advocating for policy change. This workshop will begin with an overview of the legal system focussing on areas relevant to social work practice including human rights and family law. Scenarios will be presented to illustrate ethical and practical challenges that social workers encounter, followed by group discussion. The workshop presenter will provide strategies and best practices based on her experience as a lawyer and social worker, including tips for dealing with lawyers and justice system personnel. Participants will leave the workshop with a better understanding of how to navigate the legal system and how to advocate for clients with legal issues.

Joan Braun, LLB, LLM, MSW, RSW, (PhD Cand.), Mediator & Consultant

7. A CALL FOR SOCIAL WORKERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DELIVERY OF SECTION 211 - PARENTING PLAN ASSESSMENTS

The Family Law Act of BC states that social workers are one designated professional who can complete Parenting Plan Evaluations (e.g. Custody Access Reports) in Family Law Disputes. In the Greater Vancouver area, the majority of these evaluations have typically been undertaken by psychologists. There are many reasons for this. One of them is a belief that these evaluations require psychological testing as a critical component. A review of the current research challenges this long held belief as being unfounded. Social workers bring a professional skill set that enables them to complete comprehensive, evidence-based evaluations. These can often be more cost effective for families already struggling to meet the costs of associated litigation. Social workers bring a strong history of developing solution-focused approaches to this work.

Participants will:

- become familiar with Section 211 - Parenting Plan Evaluations
- review key guidelines for completing Evidence Base evaluations
- learn about research regarding effective parenting plans and children's best interests
- review key professional skills required to undertake evaluations
- review the challenges for Social Workers to enter into this competitive market
- review how to utilize Parenting Plan Evaluations to create opportunities for parents to move forward beyond Litigation

The approach utilized by the workshop leaders will be highly interactive.

Leanne Harder, RSW and *Robert Croezen, RSW*

8. MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

Many of us will interact with people with dementia in our personal and professional lives. This workshop will share practical information and skills in working with people with dementia and their care partners. We will identify practice-based and systemic issues and explore creative examples that can make a difference in the lives of people with dementia, their families, and communities. Social workers are ideally positioned to take a leadership role in advocacy and working innovatively with people with dementia. We will consider perspectives from the community, home, and long-term care home settings. Topics will include personhood and person-centred care, communication strategies, and a palliative and supportive approach to care. Participants will learn about creating home-like environments and emerging housing models, as well as dementia-friendly communities and the effects of policy changes, federally and provincially.

BCASW Seniors Community of Practice including Alison Leaney, MSW, RSW, Public Guardian and Trustee of BC; Elizabeth Dow, PhD, RSW, Dow Consulting in Gerontology; Tracy Leroux, BSW, RSW, Hawthorne Seniors Care Community; Karen Lok Yi Wong, BSW, RSW, UBC MSW student

9. INDIGENOUS CULTURAL SAFETY: JOURNEYING TOWARDS HEALING-CENTRED ENGAGEMENT (Pairs with #4 and is 3 hours)

Indigenous Cultural Safety: What is it? How do you bring it into action in your work and personal lives? What does it mean to work towards Healing Centred Engagement?

We invite you to explore these questions in an interactive and self-reflective workshop. Together we will identify and unpack some key terms, discuss land acknowledgments and take a journey through the historical context that brings us to where we are today. Your Indigenous facilitators have over twenty years of experience working in the Indigenous health field and a passion for supporting your learning in this area. We look forward to meeting you.

Jennifer-Lee Koble MSW, RSW

Jennifer-Lee is Métis/Cree on her mother's side and of mixed European descent on her father's side. Jennifer-Lee is an Adjunct Professor and in private clinical practice.

Jennifer Dehoney BHK, BSc.(PT)

Jennifer is a member of the Missinabie Cree First Nation and is also of mixed European ancestry. She is a registered physiotherapist, certified Health/Wellness Coach and founding board member at the Urban Indigenous Health & Healing Cooperative.

10. MENTORING ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

mindsets, mastery, and millennials

Some workplaces now have five generations employed together. This workshop will assist social workers in a supervisory role with the challenges and benefits of mentoring and providing supervision across generations. Designed to engage social workers of every generation, the workshop sheds light on the emerging trends in inter-generational workplaces. It helps participants analyze the best practices in mentorship and supervision in this ever-changing context. Facilitated to be interactive, the workshop offers case studies for participants to delve into the complexities of workplace situations, while applying new ideas to their own practice. Join us to explore the tensions, joys, and common ground of working together.

Tanyss Knowles, MSW, RSW, BC Society of Transition Houses

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