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# CQ@10 - Revisiting the 'Critical' in Critical Qualitative Health Research

## Symposium Program Guide

November 20, November 26 & December 4, 2020

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*A celebration of 10 years!*

# Welcome!

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Dear attendees,

I welcome you to a celebration to mark the 10 year anniversary of the Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research (CCQHR, or CQ for short). This vibrant hub is recognized globally as both influential and unique in its dual focus on critical social theory and qualitative methodologies applied to the health field.

This Symposium is an opportunity to celebrate the remarkable success of CQ in its first decade, and to look forward to new directions for critical qualitative health scholarship and training.

It has been an honour to work with CQ's outstanding leadership and the members of the CQ@10 Organizing Committee: Joan Eakin, Denise Gastaldo, Brenda Gladstone, Pia Kontos, Jessica Polzer, Daniel Grace, Heather Boon, and Janet Parsons.

A special thank-you to Kira Kastner, Obadiah George, Francisco Ibanez-Carrasco, Tenzin Butsang, and Francoise Mbenoun Makanda for their crucial support on this initiative.

To another ten!



Blake Poland,  
Chair, CQ@10 Organizing Committee

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Dear Colleagues,

Although these are unprecedented times for any scholarly enterprise, I am so very pleased that we have the opportunity to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research.

CQ is a constant source of methodological innovation and capacity development of which the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the entire University of Toronto is proud. CQ has also been able to achieve the goal shared by all academic units of creating a vibrant scholarly community where the interchange of ideas leads to new ways of approaching problems and a stimulating environment for students.

I am grateful for the vision and leadership of Drs. Eakin, Gastaldo & Gladstone from its inception to the present.



Adalsteinn Brown  
Dean, Dalla Lana School of Public Health

# A history worth celebrating.

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We are thrilled to have you join in this Symposium created by the Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research ("CQ") to celebrate 10 years of methodological innovation and interdisciplinary education in the health sciences.

CQ has been a touchstone for doing science differently, for embracing epistemological dissonance, and for enhancing the capacity of individuals and groups to understand the world and change it for the better.

The focus of the symposium is on "critical" as a defining feature of our work and identity as qualitative researchers. We explore, over three symposium sessions, the origins, effects, and prospects of critical health research for producing new knowledge and generating social transformation. We greatly welcome your participation and the opportunity to enrich our reflections with the ideas and experiences of critical researchers from around the world.

Joan Eakin, Denise Gastaldo and Brenda Gladstone  
Founding, Past and Present Directors of CQ



## Schedule at a glance

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### November 20 | 10 AM - 12 PM EST

Keynote address Joan Eakin & Denise Gastaldo

Panel Practical Wisdom for Surviving and Thriving as  
Critical Qualitative Health Researchers

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### November 26 | 4 PM - 5:30 PM EST

Panel The Realpolitik of Critical Qualitative  
Health Research

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### December 4 | 10 AM - 12 PM EST

Keynote address Judith Green

Panel Critical Re-Visions: What's Next for Critical  
Qualitative Health Research?

# November 20 | Session 1

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10 AM EST

Welcome remarks

Blake Poland

Dean Adalsteinn Brown

Brenda Gladstone

Keynote address

Outside In: CQ as Critical Microbiome

Joan Eakin & Denise Castaldo



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11 AM EST

Panel

Practical Wisdom for Surviving and Thriving as Critical Qualitative Health Researchers

Moderator

Naomi Thulien

Panelists

Debbie Laliberte Rudman  
Lilian Magalhães  
Concha Zaforteza

Panel Abstract

Panelists will discuss successful individual and institutional strategies utilized by critical qualitative researchers to survive and thrive in the health sciences. Speakers will share their practical wisdom regarding the logic and politics of taking a marginalized epistemic position. They will provide multiple examples of how to maximize the power of critical qualitative research.



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# November 26 | Session 2

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4 PM EST

Welcome Remarks

Pia Kontos & Alisa Grigorovich

Panel

The Realpolitik of Critical Qualitative Health Research

Moderator

Pia Kontos &  
Alisa Grigorovich

Panelists

Janice Graham  
Eric Mykhalovskiy  
Jennifer Poole

Panel Abstract

Over the past two decades, critical qualitative inquiry scholars have made important strides in questioning norms of objectivity, emphasizing the complexity of social phenomena, and highlighting the moral and scientific nature of inquiry primarily through teaching and writing. Such strides have been foundational to the interrogation of structural inequalities and social conditions that marginalize critical inquiry in the health field.

While critical qualitative inquiry scholars have established an important foothold in health research environments, they continue to be marginalized; their work is restricted to “tokenism” and is regarded as “scientifically inferior”. There have been increasing numbers of local, isolated examples of resistance to this marginalization, however, there have not been any attempts to bring these various individuals/organizations together, either provincially, nationally or globally. This panel provides a forum to discuss these micro-resistance efforts, and to explore the need to complement these efforts with radical macro-emancipation in the form of collective action and political advocacy that crosses institutional and organizational boundaries.

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# December 4 | Session 3

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10 AM EST Welcome Remarks

Blake Poland

Keynote Address

Why theory is crucial for critical and useful qualitative health research.

Judith Green



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11 AM EST Panel  
Critical Re-Visions. What's Next for Critical Qualitative Health Research?

Moderator

Jessica Polzer

Panelists

Sarah Elton

Tola Mbulaheni

De-Ann Sheppard

Panel Abstract

Since its nascent development with roots in critical approaches to medical and health sociology, the theoretical and practical terrain of CQHR has expanded to include greater theoretical interdisciplinarity, methodological innovation and creativity, and acceptance and promotion of community-based and participatory research approaches that aim to fundamentally upset and redistribute power in the research process. Such expansion also reflects an increasingly diverse body of graduate students whose research interests reflect sensitivity to the demands of intersectional frameworks, which attend to the health-related determinants and consequences of multiple intersecting identities and axes of power and privilege.

Featuring the work of emerging scholars, this panel casts its gaze towards the future to consider the critical re-visions and trans-formations that are posed by those who engage with qualitative methodologies informed by a range of critical approaches, including, but not limited to, posthumanism, postcolonial theory, queer theory, Black feminist theory, intersectional frameworks, and Indigenous ways of knowing. While these approaches affirm the importance of the critical foundations of QHR, they simultaneously raise important questions about the aims of critically-oriented research, the complexity of researcher-participant identities and relationships, as well as the politics of knowledge production and social change. Papers in this panel will consider how theoretical and methodological diversity and creativity challenges, revises and otherwise transforms the scope, foundations and goals of CQHR.



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# Symposium Contributors

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## Heather Boon | Organizing Committee

Dr. Heather Boon is a Professor and the Vice-Provost, Faculty & Academic Life at the University of Toronto, Canada. She served as Dean of the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto from 2014-18. Professor Boon's program of research focuses on studying the safety, efficacy and regulation of traditional, complementary and integrative health practices and products. She has received over \$10 million in competitive research funding and published more than 175 peer-reviewed academic research papers in this area. She was appointed as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in 2019. In addition, Professor Boon served as the Chair of the Expert Advisory Committee for the Natural Health Products Directorate (Health Canada) from 2006-2009 and she is currently serving as a temporary advisor for the Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine, Department of Health Services, World Health Organization for its work exploring integration of traditional and complementary medicine into health systems and health care services.



## Joan Eakin | Keynote Speaker, Organizing Committee

Joan Eakin is the Founding Director of CQ and Professor Emerita in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. She taught qualitative research methodology for over two decades. With a disciplinary background in sociology, her research centered on work and health, particularly the health of workers in small workplaces and precarious work environments.



## Sarah Elton | Panelist

Dr. Sarah Elton is a critical food systems researcher who works at the intersection of health, ecosystems and food in the city. She is also a posthumanist scholar who foregrounds the human relationship to nonhuman nature in her work. Dr. Elton is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Ryerson University and is also appointed to the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto (status). She is a member of the Centre for Studies in Food Security at Ryerson University and the Toronto Food Policy Council. Her scholarly research has been published in *Gastronomica* and *Critical Public Health*, and is forthcoming in *Environmental Humanities*. She is also an award-winning author of several books including *Locavore: From Farmers' Fields to Rooftop Gardens*, *How Canadians are Changing the Way We Eat*.



## Denise Gastaldo | Keynote speaker, Organizing Committee

Denise Gastaldo is the founding Associate Director of CQ and Associate Professor at the Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing and Dalla Lana School of Public Health. She is the Education Coordinator for CQ's interdisciplinary curriculum. Her research focuses on migration and gender as social determinants of health.



## Brenda Gladstone | Director, CCQHR

Brenda Gladstone, PhD, is Assistant Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Director, the Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research, University of Toronto. Her research focuses on marginalization, equity and social justice in the field of children's mental health and on the theory, method and practice of participatory, arts-based and critical qualitative methods in research with young people.





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## Daniel Grace | Organizing Committee

Dr. Daniel Grace is an Associate Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, and the Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Sexual and Gender Minority Health. Dr. Grace is a sociologist who conducts critical qualitative and mixed methods research to explore the everyday actualities of sexual decision-making and the implementation of novel biomedical HIV and STI prevention interventions. Dr. Grace also conducts research related to the social, physical, and mental health of diverse sexual and gender minority men across Canada. His recent publications have appeared in *Social Science and Medicine*, *Sociology of Health and Illness*, *Qualitative Health Research*, *Critical Public Health*, *Health and Place*, *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*, *AIDS Care*, and *Culture, Health and Sexuality*. He is the Director of the Centre for Sexual and Gender Minority Health Research at the University of Toronto.



## Janice Graham | Panelist

Janice E. Graham, PhD, FRSC, FCAHS is University Research Professor, Professor of Pediatrics (Infectious Diseases) and Medical Anthropology, and Director of the Technoscience & Regulation Research Unit at Dalhousie University. Drawing from bioethics, epidemiology, health technology assessment and science and technology studies (STS), she ethnographically studies the construction of evidence in scientific and regulatory practices that can compromise safety and efficacy in therapeutics and vaccines in Canada, Africa and Europe. She is interested in how publicly funded innovations get privatized. She has presented evidence to the Science Policy Directorate, Office of Legislative and Regulatory Modernization, the Parliament of Canada, World Health Organization, and United Nations on open data, regulatory practice and emergency response.



## Judith Green | Keynote Speaker

Judith Green is Professor of Sociology in the Wellcome Centre for Cultures & Environments of Health, at the University of Exeter. She has published widely on risk, methodology, health services and public health; her recent research interests have been in urban environments and health, particularly issues of mobility. Judith is co-editor of the journal *Critical Public Health* and co-author of the textbook *Qualitative Methods for Health Research*.



## Alisa Grigorovich | Session Lead

Alisa Grigorovich is a CIHR Postdoctoral Fellow at KITE-Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network and an Academic Fellow of the Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research. Her research focuses on health equity, aging, and stigma in the context of institutional and home-based care. In her research she uses critical theories, qualitative and mixed methods to capture how political, economic and cultural systems and processes intersect to shape health outcomes, access to care, and experiences of care. She also uses arts-based methods for knowledge creation and knowledge translation, and for education and social change. Her postdoctoral research is focused on the ethical, legal, and social implications of implementing artificial intelligence and other technologies to improve care of older adults across different health care settings.

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## Pia Kontos | Organizing Committee, Session Lead

Pia Kontos is a Senior Scientist at KITE-Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network, an Associate Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto, Canada, and an Academic Fellow of the Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research. In her research she uses critical theories, and qualitative and art-based methods to explore structural and relational vulnerability to stigma associated with dementia in community care and long-term care settings. She also develops and evaluates arts-based initiatives to reduce stigma, influence policy, and improve care practices in these settings.



## Debbie Laliberte Rudman | Panelist

Debbie Laliberte Rudman, Professor, School of Occupational Therapy; founding member and executive committee member, Centre for Research on Health Equity and Social Inclusion, University of Western Ontario and Adjunct Fellow, Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research, University of Toronto.



## Lilian Magalhães | Panelist

Lilian Magalhães, Associate Professor, Emerita, Western University and Adjunct Professor, Universidade Federal de Sao Carlos, Brazil, editorial board member of the Journal of Occupational Science and researcher of the Qualitative Network Brazil-Canada.



## Tola Mbulaheni | Panelist

Tola Mbulaheni is a 2nd-year PhD student in the Social and Behavioural Health Sciences program at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. Ms. Mbulaheni brings 10 years of research experience related to Black/African women and social contexts of HIV risk and prevention spanning Canada and South Africa. Her doctoral research will focus on critically examining structural forms of racism shaping HIV-related services accessed by Black women in the Greater Toronto Area. This inquiry will further investigate how women experience these services and the subsequent impacts on their decision-making related to HIV prevention and treatment self-care. Ms. Mbulaheni is also a burgeoning scholar of critical theories of race and racism including critical race theory and black feminist thought.



## Shan Mohammed | Moderator

Shan Mohammed, RN, PhD is an Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream at the Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto and an Academic Fellow at CQ. He completed his post-doctoral research fellowship at the Global Institute of Psychosocial, Palliative and End of Life Care, University Health Network. His scholarly expertise includes poststructural theory, the ethics of death and dying, palliative care, and the medicalization of dying.

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## Eric Mykhalovskiy | Panelist

I am a professor of sociology and director of the Graduate Program in Sociology at York University. I work primarily in the tradition of the Studies in the Social Organization of Knowledge and Institutional Ethnography. My past research has focused on the interface of public health and legal modes of governance, with an empirical focus on HIV criminalization. I am currently developing 2 small projects: (1) a critique of thematic analysis; and (2) a qualitative study of the governance of urban nuisance noise. Most recently, I co-edited *Thinking Differently about HIV/AIDS: Contributions from Critical Social Science* (UBC Press, 2019) and *Health Matters: Critical Social Science Research on Health Care in Canada* (University of Toronto Press, 2020). I am a senior editor of the *Canadian Journal of Public Health* responsible for qualitative manuscripts. I am also a member of the CQ Advisory Board.



## Janet Parsons | Organizing Committee

Dr. Janet Parsons is a Scientist at the Applied Health Research Centre and the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital. She is also an Associate Professor affiliated with the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute, the Department of Physical Therapy, the Institute of Medical Science and the Institute of Health Policy Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto. She is an Academic Fellow at the Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research (CQ) at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (U of T). Dr. Parsons' research is focused on developing and applying qualitative methodologies to a variety of health care issues, with specific interests in narrative, arts-based and visual methods for research and knowledge translation. As a methodologist and health services researcher working in a wide range of topic areas, her main interests include patients' experiences of illness, health disparities, patient and community engagement, healthcare delivery, and the sociology of health and illness. Dr. Parsons has contributed to the training of numerous graduate students. She currently serves as the Co-Director of the Research Training Centre (RTC) at St. Michael's Hospital.



## Blake Poland | Organizing Committee, Session Lead

Blake Poland is a professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Director of the Collaborative Specialization in Community Development at the University of Toronto, Senior Fellow with CQ, and Chair of the CQ@10 Organizing Committee. His research, teaching, and extracurricular work brings together critical social theory, qualitative research methods and community-engaged research, applied to issues of community resilience, sustainability transition, and collective action for transformative social change.



## Jessica Polzer | Organizing Committee, Session Lead

Jessica Polzer is an Associate Professor at the University of Western Ontario in the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies and the School of Health Studies. Her research draws on narrative theory and critical qualitative methodologies to examine the social, political, and ethical dimensions of risk discourse and health technologies in neoliberal societies. A critical interdisciplinary health studies scholar, Dr. Polzer mentors graduate students in a range of disciplines who engage critical qualitative methodologies in their research. Her current projects include research on fertility/menstrual tracking apps and on statistical narrativity.



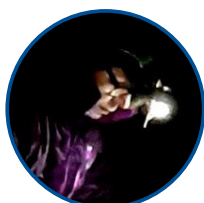
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## Jennifer Poole | Panelist

Jennifer Poole (she/her) is a cis settler to T'karonto. She is an Associate Professor and Co-Graduate Program Director in the School of Social Work at Ryerson University where her work sits at the intersection of oppression and mental/health. While teaching/supporting is her 'academic' priority, current critical qualitative projects focus on sanism in the helping professions, white supremacy and discourses on grief/loss as well as responding to colonialism in pedagogy and research. She is a TEDx talker, a knowledge co-creator and a very silly aunt. She longs to write more, manage less and is happiest outside.



## De-Ann Sheppard | Panelist

Teluisi De-Ann Sheppard tleyawi Ktaqmkuk. (My Name is De-Ann Sheppard and I am from the land across the waters now known as Newfoundland and Labrador.) Proud L'nu woman (she/hers), non-status Canadian citizen of the Qalipu First Nation, St. George's, the oldest daughter of Greg and Mary Sheppard, mother of two sons, grandmother, partner, aunt, nurse practitioner, nursing professor, activist, feminist, artist, and emerging scholar. My formal education, Diploma (St. Clare's Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, 1987), BScN/Primary Healthcare Nurse Practitioner (University of Ottawa, 1998), Master's Healthcare Quality (Queen's University, 2015) and currently on a doctoral journey (University of Toronto, OISE, Adult Education and Community Development, collaborative specialization in Indigenous health). I am interested in Indigenous nurse's stories and what they might teach us about moving safely through racialized colonized spaces as we are socialized and perform our nursing identity. I grew up disconnected from my root language, land and knowledge. I returned to unceded Mi'kmaq territory in 2018, allowing me to (re)member the land, reconnect with kinship lines, learn the Mi'kmaw language and listen deeply to Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Critical autoethnography gives voice to the complexities of identity and finding home as a resilient resistor.



## Naomi Thulien | Moderator

Dr. Naomi Thulien is an Assistant Professor at the McMaster University School of Nursing and an Affiliate Scientist at the MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions at St. Michael's Hospital. She is also an Academic Fellow at the Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research at the University of Toronto. Dr. Thulien completed her PhD at the University of Toronto Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing. While pursuing a PhD, Dr. Thulien completed the Collaborative Doctoral Program in Global Health at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and obtained a Certificate of Advanced Methodological Training in Qualitative Research from the Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research. The focus of Dr. Thulien's research is on working with the community to understand and address the social structural inequities that cause and perpetuate youth homelessness. She also maintains a part-time nurse practitioner practice at Covenant House Toronto and the Youth Wellness Centre (in collaboration with the Shelter Health Network) in Hamilton.



## Concha Zaforteza | Panelist

Concha Zaforteza, Nursing Director, Inca County Hospital, Balearic Islands Health Service and Associate professor, Faculty of Nursing and Physiotherapy, University of Balearic Islands, Grupo de Investigación en Cuidados, Cronicidad y Evidencias en Salud (CurES), Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria de las Islas Baleares (IdISBa).

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# Thank you for celebrating with us!

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Visit us at [ccqhr.utoronto.ca](http://ccqhr.utoronto.ca) for information on future events and recent publications.