



Dalla Lana
School of Public Health

The Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research

Annual Report
May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024



This report is submitted by the Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research (CQ), to the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and CQ's Contributing Partners: the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, the Factor Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute, the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education, and the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing.

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Executive Summary

Curriculum

In 2023-2024, the Essentials of Qualitative Research (EQR) course series was comprised of 13 courses, with 215 students enrolled in courses across the curriculum.

Public Seminars

CQ's public seminar series continues to be held online since shifting to the format in 2020. The seminar series continued to attract a wide audience; the actual average attendance was 57 people, although registration was often double this number.

In October and January, 2022-23 CQ Dissertation Award co-recipients presented their award-winning work. Dr. Escrig Pinol presented her thesis work developing a graphic participatory method and culturally appropriate entry point to ease 'data overwhelm' in discussions of mental and emotional health with Mexican transnational families, in an effort to improve policy and programs for seasonal workers and their families. Dr. MacLachlan, shared insights on her journey as a non-Inuk researcher seeking to build an equitable, productive and coherent relationship between Inuit worldviews and the critical paradigm in the context of her doctoral research.

In March, Dr. Alan Santinele Martino (CQ Academic Fellow, University of Calgary) introduced the notion of 'crip magic', a transformative approach derived from the intersection of Disability and Mad Studies, in the context of qualitative research. Dr. Marit Solbjør (CQ Academic Visitor, Norwegian University of Science and Technology) joined CQ in April for a seminar on hegemonic masculinity in focus groups on men's health.

All seminar recordings are available for viewing on our [YouTube channel](#).

Continuing Education

In April 2024, CQ announced a new workshop titled "More-than-Human Methodologies" organized by Dr. Sarah Elton from Toronto Metropolitan University. The workshop is scheduled May 8, 2024. It will focus on expanding the research lens to include non-human entities often excluded in Euro-Western social sciences and humanities studies.

Joan Eakin Award for Methodological Excellence

The winner of this year's award is Dr. Karima Joy, for her thesis titled, "Honouring Grief Experiences in Life, Death, and the Workplace: A Critical Analysis of Bereavement Accommodation for Workers in Precarious Employment in Canada". Dr. Joy will present a public seminar in Fall 2024.

Academic Fellows

CQ currently has 18 Academic Fellows, 15 National Adjunct Fellows, and seven International Adjunct Fellows. See [Appendix E](#) for a list of selected Fellows' publications.

International Linkages

Academics Without Borders

CQ Director Dr. Brenda Gladstone and Education Coordinator Dr. Denise Gastaldo concluded their collaboration with scholars at the Federal University of Acre, Brazil to support the development of the UFAC Collective Health Graduate Program's Qualitative Health Research stream. Together, they developed a new course for graduate students in public health based on the principles and practice of qualitative health research.

Brazil-Canada Network in Qualitative Health Research (BCNQHR)

Dr. Gastaldo, alongside members of the Brazil-Canada Network, received federal funding from the CAPES Foundation (Brazil) to hold an international seminar in Brazil in May 2024 about scientific literacy and education in qualitative health research. However, due to the floods in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, the conference with 880 participants registered was postponed to March 2025.

UNICEF

CQ Fellows Dr. Clara Juando-Prats and Denise Gastaldo collaborated with UNICEF on a GAVI-funded behaviorally-informed RCT with a gender equitable qualitative research component. They are currently assisting in finding Portuguese-speaking qualitative researchers to train researchers in Mozambique. Denise provided a consultancy session for a proposal on vaccination hesitancy in March 2024.

Future of CQ

CQ's Founding Director Dr. Joan Eakin and her husband Chris Hoffmann made a \$3.5 million gift to ensure the future development and vitality of CQ and its research education program. The donation, matched by the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, provides for two new faculty Chairs in critical qualitative health research methodology.

Hiring for the first of these two positions began with applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Critical Qualitative Health Research Methodology. Applications were due June 5, 2023, and the search was completed by early Winter, 2024. Dr. Sarah Elton will begin her new role in July 2024. The search for the second chair and new CQ Director will begin the Fall of 2024.