
GLOBALIZATION AND THE HEALTH OF CANADIANS



Dear Team Member:

Welcome to the first of our quarterly newsletters. The Globalization and Health of Canadians project is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and operates out of the Centre for Globalization and Health Equity at the University of Ottawa.

Publications from our Inaugural Conference

We have submitted a prospectus of our proposed book on 'Forgotten Families: Globalization and the Health of Canadians' for consideration as an electronic publication as part of the Transdisciplinary Studies in Population Health series of the Institute of Population Health at the University of Ottawa. We hope to learn whether the prospectus has been accepted by the middle of June.

Why are we hoping to publish electronically? The focus of the series on transdisciplinary approaches to population health provides an excellent fit for our work. Electronic formats will facilitate access to our work for a large number of readers, thereby maximising impact. The electronic version will be both internally peer reviewed and externally reviewed before being published, thus helping to assure quality. Assuming acceptance in mid-June, all contributors to the conference should plan on reviewing their presentations and submitting draft chapters by mid-September.

Conceptual Framework Working Group

Ted Schrecker will take the lead in preparing a draft paper setting out a conceptual framework that links globalization with the social determinants of health in major metropolitan

areas. The draft will be ready for consideration by the members of this working group in early August. A preliminary bibliography has been circulated among the members of the working group, and can of course be sent to all team members if requested. (We are trying to minimize in-box clutter!)

Plans for Qualitative Research on Metropolitan Experiences

Led by Michael Orsini, the qualitative group will spend some time over the next few months trying to 'operationalise' the basic research question that will guide this arm of the project. That is, what is the impact of globalization on the daily lives of working families with children and how are these mediated or mitigated by the state and by para-state or community services? We plan to examine this through the use of case studies in Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver.

The group is also trying to iron out some methodological concerns before getting underway, including the exact purpose of the multi-site focus, and what insights we might glean from comparative analysis. For instance, if there is a concern with examining the quality of services for low-income families in one province or city, it might be useful to develop a sample selection across these cities or provinces by choosing works in one industry negatively affected by globalization. We are also hoping to adopt some novel approaches to qualitative research, in particular our interviews with research participants, including the use of photo-voice/photo-novella as a means of increasing informant participation and allowing people to tell their stories in a compelling manner.

Comparative Policy Review and Metropolitan Differences Working Group

Dennis Raphael will take the lead in the international literature review on comparative policies. The first tranche of this work, to be completed within a year, will produce an annotated bibliography and a critical review paper that (a) identifies generic areas in which globalization's effects on social determinants of health demand policy responses; and (b) identifies the most promising existing and proposed policy responses, and takes a first cut at identifying 3-5 jurisdictions that exemplify best practices for further study.

Plans for a Doctoral Study in Saskatoon

Nazeem Muhajarine and Jennifer Cushon propose to investigate the causal pathways by which globalization affects or is likely to affect health, geographical health disparities and the determinants of health in Saskatoon, with special reference to children in low-income households. Saskatoon (population ~230,000) is a city with a relatively high concentration of low-income households in a limited geographical area. The overall design will be a case study, using multiple methods and triangulation of data sources including a literature review to determine the major causal pathways by which globalization impacts child health and a demographic profile for Saskatoon over the past twenty years. Major causal pathways will be selected and substantiated with numerous data sets from community-based organizations and governmental agencies and expert interviews to further substantiate the causal pathways under investigation.

The health status of infants and children is eminently important for society and its future prosperity and direction, although this has also been relatively unexplored in relation to the health impacts of globalization. Thus, this study will address a policy-relevant need that could help to inform future policy that impacts the health status of Canadian children.

Preparing a Management Policy Framework

Guidelines on Data Sharing, Research Assistance Allocation and Travel Funds Allocation have been finalised and circulated to the project team by e-mail. Guidelines on Authorship and Publication are currently under review. If any team member would like to share any particular knowledge or experience around publication and authorship guidelines, please submit your thoughts to our project coordinator.

Research Assistance Allocation

Team members are invited to submit requests for Research Assistants to the steering committee by contacting our project coordinator. Research Assistants have been budgeted at the University of Ottawa rate of \$33.50 per hour. The ICE Network will comply with the traditions and pay-scale requirements of the University where the Research Assistant is located. The steering committee will comply with the fixed allocation of Research Assistants per year as outlined in the original proposal of the ICE Network. Where applicable, priority will be given to those researchers who were explicitly assigned a Research Assistant in the original proposal.

For your Information:

Mapping Global Inequality - UC Atlas Conference

This conference will take place from 13-14 December 2007 at the University of California in Santa Cruz.

The goals of the conference are:

- To advance the debate about global integration, inequality and poverty
- To present workshops on the latest techniques in mapping global inequality
- To make the results of discussion promptly available through accessible online maps, figures and interactive utilities.

Deadline for abstract submission is August 1st.

The conference website can be found at:
<http://ucatlas.ucsc.edu/flyer.html>

FEATURE:**Meeting with Canadian Population Health Initiative (CPHI) team, May 4, 2007****Attending**

Lisa Votta, Program Lead, Reports & Analysis
Carol Brulé, Program Lead, Reports & Analysis
Keith Denny, Program Consultant, Policy Analysis
Ted Schrecker, University of Ottawa
Regrets due to illness: Elizabeth Gyorf-Dyke, Director, CPHI

On May 4, 2007, the above representatives met to identify possible areas of collaboration between the two initiatives and to minimize potential duplication of effort.

Common Themes

Place and health will remain one of CPHI's themes through the year 2010, with a number of new activities under way or planned, and a new expert advisory group to be selected for the next phase of this work. A workshop on finding a place for place in health research and policy was organized in April, 2005 in collaboration with the Léa Roback Research Centre (team member Nancy Ross participated in this workshop). A brief perusal of the workshop report, which is attached to this newsletter, suggests that it raises very interesting policy questions. At least some papers from the workshop will appear as a supplement to *Canadian Journal of Public Health* in Fall, 2007.

Another CPHI strategic theme for the coming years is reducing gaps in health, which also offers possible synergies with the G&HC project. This work is at an earlier stage, but the report of an initial workshop on this topic, held in Halifax in March 2007, is due out this summer.

Common Goals

In addition, CPHI is now working with the Urban Public Health Network (UPHN; <http://www.uphn.ca/>) to generate 19 reports on urban poverty and health in individual cities.

More detail about this project appears in the notes from May 17 meeting, **below**.

In general, it seems that by Fall - which is also when we will have prepared the conceptual framework element of our project - more research related to place and health will have been published, and a considerably clearer picture will emerge of what data are available and of the extent to which they have already been synthesized by others.

CPHI staff attending this meeting would all like to be kept informed of work on our project as it progresses, and would be glad to present on CPHI work at the University of Ottawa as appropriate. We have agreed to pursue this matter further.

FEATURE:**Meeting with Senior Analyst of the UPHN project, May 17, 2007****Attending**

Mélanie Josée Davidson, Senior Analyst responsible for coordinating the UPHN project.
Ted Schrecker, University of Ottawa

This meeting was arranged to learn more about the UPHN project (see above), which appears directly relevant to our work.

Project Description

Medical Officers of Health are the leads for each of the participant cities, which comprise the 18 UPHN member cities and Laval. Cities have defined their own neighbourhood boundaries, which preclude comparison among cities, but raw data are normally at the Dissemination Area level. Using the INSPQ deprivation index (see article attached to this newsletter), neighbourhoods have been classified into three socio-economic groups. Note that although the city reports will not contain any data on population with income below LICO, CPHI does have access to these data according to Ms. Davidson.

Anticipated release date for the individual city reports is mid-October, although some cities may be delayed. Anticipated release date for the pan-Canadian report being generated by CPHI is late Spring 2008.

Future Steps

We will compile a package of information on Globalization & Health of Canadians project for circulation to UPHN by late July. Ms. Davidson has kindly agreed to circulate this material to the Medical Officers of Health, and specifically to make sure that her contacts in the cities that are participating in our project are informed.

We will pass on our draft conceptual framework for comments when finalised.

Suggested Future Step

In future it will probably be most useful for the members of the working groups on Economic Inequality and on Measures and Mapping to interact directly with Ms. Davidson and this

project. Is it reasonable for these groups to identify a single person from among their number who will be the point of contact?

Related Working Groups

Economic Inequality:

Nazeem Muhajarine
Armine Yalnizyan
Ted Schrecker
Jody Heymann

GRID Measures & Mapping:

Elizabeth Kristjansson
Mike Sawada
Ron Labonte
Neil Andersson

Needless to say, participation in these working groups from other team members is welcome and encouraged!

QUOTE

“Space is a class issue. The development agenda of New York City’s business elite, the large returns on high-rise development, and the enabling actions of New York State ... have shrunken the space available to working-class New York. Globalization has made the city’s upper classes wealthier in absolute and relative terms than at any time since the Gilded Age. Today’s robber barons are financial speculators and real estate moguls who shape the city’s economy and built environment both through their investments and their outsized demand for luxury living.”

-- Kim Moody, *From Welfare State to Real Estate: Regime Change in New York City, 1974 to the Present* (New York: New Press, 2007)