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## GLOBALIZATION AND THE HEALTH OF CANADIANS

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### Dear Team Member:

This newsletter marks the end of the first year of our five-year project. We would like to thank you all for your interest and input in the crucial first steps of establishing this research network.

The summer of 2007 has seen key meetings taking place to determine next research steps.

### Qualitative Research on Metropolitan Experiences Working Group

Members of the qualitative research group have spent time over the summer refining the basic research question that will guide this arm of the project: *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?*

This working group will meet again in September to standardise criteria for selecting neighbourhoods for recruitment across our study areas of Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. This group will also work on a common research protocol, recruitment procedures and interview schedule to be determined at this meeting. Submission for ethics approval where required is anticipated to take place in the late Fall, and our group aims to begin conducting interviews by early 2008. Participants will be recruited by drawing on our existing contact networks in the study areas. Novel approaches to qualitative research with interview participants will also be explored at this meeting, 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.

### Measures and Mapping Working Group

The core research objective of this group has been identified as: *To develop a district or neighbourhood level Globalization-Relevant Index of Disadvantage (GRID) as a basis for mapping the incidence of specific vulnerabilities and, in particular, the spatial cumulation of risk factors.*

A meeting between this working group and Canadian Population Health Initiative representatives (Melanie-Josée Davidson and Carol Brulé) in August successfully identified current research priorities. One such priority is the need to intensively examine the sources and scale of data available for this project. Team input on the original list of indicators has been requested and a Research Assistant (Sam Herold) has been recruited to investigate availability, scale and quality of sources of data. Sam will be in touch with many team members with specific questions about data sources and quality.

This group will also focus on the selection of boundaries for participating cities (Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver) for the purposes of statistical study and mapping. CPHI representatives have kindly shared maps of the neighbourhood boundaries of the Urban Public Health Network. Given project scope, this step may need the input of the entire project team.

This working group has also suggested focusing on deriving an asset index – as opposed to a deprivation index – at the neighbourhood level, as has been done by Betsy Kristjansson and her team in a study of neighbourhood characteristics in Ottawa. The need to work directly with officers of the public health departments in participating cities has also been agreed, and Ms.

Davidson from CPHI has circulated our proposal to relevant contacts to that effect.

### **Comparative Policy Review and Metropolitan Differences Working Group**

The initial set of objectives for this working group will be to: *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 3-5 jurisdictions that exemplify best practices for further study.*

Dennis Raphael and Toba Bryant have begun work on the comparative analysis on the international literature on comparative policies and metropolitan differences. The first tranche of this work is estimated to be completed within a year. Recruitment of a Research Assistant has been approved and will be followed up on shortly.

### **Plans for a Doctoral Study in Saskatoon**

The objective of this study will be 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.*

Jennifer Cushon will have her first committee meeting with Ron Labonte and Nazeem Muhajarine in September. Data collection is estimated to begin in late September/ early October. Main methods will be: a content analysis of policy documents relevant to child health at the global, national, provincial and municipal level; interviews; a demographic profile of Saskatoon over the past 20 years; and secondary data on child health outcomes in Saskatoon.

### **Conceptual Framework Working Group**

Ted Schrecker and Ron Labonte (*additional authors to be determined*) have had an abstract on the background for the project, and key issues in developing a conceptual framework, accepted for the International Conference on Mapping Global Inequality: Beyond Income Inequality at University of California – Santa Cruz in December, 2007. This will be a valuable

opportunity both to obtain feedback on key conceptual and research design issues and to take advantage of planned workshops on poverty mapping, using Google Maps and GIS.

<http://ucatlascsc.edu/flyer.html>.

### **Economic Inequality Working Group**

Armine Yalnizyan has been preparing charts and tables showing historical trends in market income, income after taxes and transfers and the effect of taxes and transfers for families with children under 18 by decile of the income distribution. These findings are expected shortly.

### **International Conference on Urban Health, Baltimore, 31<sup>st</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2007**

Betsy Kristjansson, Mike Sawada and team have had three abstracts accepted for presentation at this conference.

1. 'A Participatory Geomatics Approach to Defining Health-Relevant Neighbourhoods in Ottawa.'
2. 'Differences in Neighbourhood Food Retail Environments by Socio-Economic Status in Ottawa.'
3. 'Spatial Inequalities and Health Disparities: Neighbourhood Resources, Socio-Economic Status and Health Outcomes in Ottawa.'

<http://www.icuh2007.com/>

### **Globalization & Health of Canadians Website**

This website has been established at the University of Ottawa and is in its final stages of preparation. We aim to launch these webpages publicly by the end of September 2007. The website will provide a full description of the research project, brief biographies and contact details for each team member, access to publications generated by the team as well as a private 'Team Members Only' webpage. This website will operate as part of and be maintained by the Globalization and Health Equity Research Unit at the University of Ottawa.

### **Forgotten Families: Transdisciplinary Studies in Population Health Series**

A decision from University of Ottawa Press on our submission from May is still pending.

## Recent Articles of Interest

**Most available electronically; contact Anne Musiol if you would like copies**

1. Barten, F., Mitlin, D., Mulholland, C., Hardoy, A., & Stern, R. (2007). Integrated Approaches to Address the Social Determinants of Health for Reducing Health Inequity. *Journal of Urban Health*, 84, 164-173.
2. Boschken, H. L. (2003). Global Cities, Systemic Power, and Upper-Middle-Class Influence. *Urban Affairs Review*, 38, 808-830.
3. Boudreau, J. A. (2003). The Politics of Territorialization: Regionalism, Localism and other isms ... The Case of Montreal. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 25, 179-199.
4. Cobban, T. (2003). The Political Economy of Urban Redevelopment: Downtown Revitalization in London, Ontario, 1993-2002. *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, 12, 231-248.
5. Cobban, T. (2003). Timothy Cobban's Reply to Christopher Leo's Comment "Are There Urban Regimes in Canada?". *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, 12, 349-352.
6. Donald, B. (2005). The politics of local economic development in Canada's city-regions: New dependencies, new deals, and a new politics of scale. *Space and Polity*, 9, 261-281.
7. Dunning, H., Janzen, B., Williams, A., Abonyi, S., Jeffery, B., Randall, J. et al. (2006). A gender analysis of quality of life in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. *Geojournal*, 65, 393-407.
8. Fraser, J. C. (2004). Beyond Gentrification: Mobilizing Communities and Claiming Space. *Urban Geography*, 25, 437-457.
9. Giuliano, G. (2005). Low Income, Public Transit, and Mobility. *Transportation Research Record*, 1927, 63-70.
10. Glaeser, E. L. & Saiz, A. (2004). The Rise of the Skilled City. *Brookings-Wharton Papers on Urban Affairs*, 2004, 47-105.
11. Kawabata, M. & Shen, Q. (2007). Commuting Inequality between Cars and Public Transit: The Case of the San Francisco Bay Area, 1990 - 2000. *Urban Studies*, 44, 1759-1780.
12. Lake, A. & Townshend, T. (2006). Obesogenic environments: exploring the built and food environments. *The Journal of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health*, 126, 262-267.
13. Lees, L. (2003). The ambivalence of diversity and the politics of urban renaissance: the case of youth in downtown Portland, Maine. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 27, 613-634.

14. Leo, C. (2003). Are There Urban Regimes in Canada? Comment on Timothy Cobban's "The Political Economy of Urban Redevelopment: Downtown Revitalization in London, Ontario, 1993-2002". *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, 12, 344-348.
15. Levine, M. V. (2003). Tourism-Based Redevelopment and the Fiscal Crisis of the City: The Case of Montréal. *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, 12, 102-123.
16. Lopez, R. & Hynes, H. P. (2006). Obesity, physical activity, and the urban environment: public health research needs. *Environmental Health: A Global Access Science Source*, 5, 25.
17. Moos, M. & Skaburskis, A. (2007). The Characteristics and Location of Home Workers in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. *Urban Studies*, 44, 1781-1808.
18. Newman, P. (2007). "Back the Bid": The 2012 Summer Olympics and the Governance of London. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 29, 255-267.
19. Ompad, D., Galea, S., Caiaffa, W., & Vlahov, D. (2007). Social Determinants of the Health of Urban Populations: Methodologic Considerations. *Journal of Urban Health*, 84, 42-53.
20. Pridmore, P., Thomas, L., Havemann, K., Sapag, J., & Wood, L. (2007). Social Capital and Healthy Urbanization in a Globalized World. *Journal of Urban Health*, 84, 130-143.
21. Rantisi, N. M. & Leslie, D. (2006). Branding the design metropole: the case of Montreal, Canada. *Area*, 38, 364-376.
22. Rose, D. (2004). Discourses and Experiences of Social Mix in Gentrifying Neighbourhoods: A Montreal Case Study. *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, 13.
23. Ross, N. A., Tremblay, S., Khan, S., Crouse, D., Tremblay, M., & Berthelot, J. M. (2007). Body Mass Index in Urban Canada: Neighborhood and Metropolitan Area Effects. *American Journal of Public Health*, 97, 500-508.
24. Sanchez, T., Stolz, R., & Ma, J. (2004). Inequitable Effects of Transportation Policies on Minorities. *Transportation Research Record*, 1885, 104-110.
25. Sanchez, T. W., Shen, Q., & Peng, Z. (2004). Transit mobility, jobs access and low-income labour participation in us metropolitan areas. *Urban Studies*, 41, 1313-1331.
26. Shearmur, R., Coffey, W., Dubé, C., & Barbonne, R. (2007). Intrametropolitan Employment Structure: Polycentricity, Scatteration, Dispersal and Chaos in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, 1996 - 2001. *Urban Studies*, 44, 1713-1738.
27. Silk, M. & Amis, J. (2005). Sport Tourism, Cityscapes and Cultural Politics. *Sport in Society*, 8, 280-301.

28. Silk, M. L. (2007). Come Downtown & Play. *Leisure Studies*, 26, 253-277.
29. Smith, H. & Graves, W. (2005). Gentrification as Corporate Growth Strategy: The Strange Case of Charlotte, North Carolina and the Bank of America. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 27, 403-418.
30. Stokes, R. J. (2006). Business Improvement Districts and Inner City Revitalization: The Case Of Philadelphia's Frankford Special Services District. *International Journal of Public Administration*, 29, 173-186.
31. Vojnovic, I., Jackson-Elmoore, C., Holtrop, J., & Bruch, S. (2006). The renewed interest in urban form and public health: Promoting increased physical activity in Michigan. *Cities*, 23, 1-17.
32. Walks, R. A. (2004). Place of Residence, Party Preferences, and Political Attitudes in Canadian Cities and Suburbs. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 26, 269-295.
33. Walks, R. A. (2004). Suburbanization, the Vote, and Changes in Federal and Provincial Political Representation and Influence Between Inner Cities and Suburbs in Large Canadian Urban Regions, 1945-1999. *Urban Affairs Review*, 39, 411-440.
34. Walks, R. A. (2006). Aestheticization and the cultural contradictions of neoliberal (sub)urbanism. *Cultural Geographies*, 13, 466-475.
35. Walks, R. A. (2006). The Causes of City-Suburban Political Polarization? A Canadian Case Study. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 96, 390-414.
36. Walks, R. A. & Bourne, L. S. (2006). Ghettos in Canada's cities? Racial segregation, ethnic enclaves and poverty concentration in Canadian urban areas. *The Canadian Geographer/Le Géographe canadien*, 50, 273-297.
37. Walks, R. A. (2007). The boundaries of suburban discontent? Urban definitions and neighbourhood political effects. *The Canadian Geographer/Le Géographe canadien*, 51, 160-185.
38. Watson, T. (2006). Metropolitan Growth, Inequality, and Neighborhood Segregation by Income. *Brookings-Wharton Papers on Urban Affairs*, 2006, 1-52.
39. Wyly, E. K. & Hammel, D. J. (2003). *Mapping Neoliberal American Urbanism* Vancouver: Department of Geography, University of British Columbia.
40. Yusuf, S., Nabeshima, K., & Ha, W. (2007). Income and Health in Cities: the Messages from Stylized Facts. *Journal of Urban Health*, 84, 35-41.