

*Centre for Gender & Sexual Health Equity*

# Annual Report

*May 2022 - August 2023*



CENTRE FOR  
GENDER & SEXUAL  
HEALTH EQUITY



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Executive summary

The Centre for Gender & Sexual Health Equity (CGSHE) is a provincially-, nationally- and internationally-networked UBC Faculty of Medicine research centre, affiliated with Simon Fraser University.

This annual report captures the year and half after the Centre for Gender & Sexual Health Equity officially joined the UBC Faculty of Medicine, from May 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023. It has been a time of change and growth for CGSHE, and has also been a time of uncertainty and change in the world around us.

As stated in our Strategic Plan, “Gender equity and sexual health transcend borders as urgent local and global health and human rights priorities that require community, intersectoral, intersectional, and global policy approaches.” In this transition period, CGSHE researchers, staff and trainees have made great strides towards our Mission and Vision:

## **Our Vision**

To achieve gender equity and sexual health for all by driving collaborative and cutting-edge research, evidence-based policy, and clinical/community practice in BC, Canada and globally.

## **Our Mission**

To provide leadership in advancing gender equity and sexual health for all in BC, Canada, and globally through rigorous community-engaged research that meets the highest scientific and ethical standards; evidence-based policy development and advocacy; and fostering the implementation of innovative, patient-centred clinical and community practices through guidelines and education.

With misinformation on the rise, evidence-based research is more important than ever. Additionally, research that is rooted in collaborative co-creation with the communities that it impacts is essential in the journey to build equitable communities and to transform health for everyone.

In this report, we are delighted to showcase the breadth and depth of the relationships that our faculty have co-created with community members and partners, and the outstanding research, papers, presentations, events, and KT products that have come out of this co-creation. We’re proud of the work that we’ve been able to accomplish in this time, and excited for what is ahead as the Centre continues to grow and undertake research at the forefront of gender and sexual health equity. We look forward to sharing more with you in future annual reports in the years ahead.

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# CGSHE researchers & staff

## Overview

The Centre for Gender & Sexual Health Equity's Leadership team is a diverse group of experts advancing gender equity and sexual health for all in BC, Canada and globally through rigorous community-engaged research that meets the highest scientific and ethical standards; evidence-based policy development and advocacy; and fostering the implementation of innovative, patient-centred clinical and community practices through guidelines and education.

The CGSHE Leadership team support the overarching strategic planning and direction of the Centre, as well as the day-to-day functioning of the CGSHE UBC Research/ Admin Office and UBC Community Research Hub.

## CGSHE Leadership team

### Interim Director

#### *Dr. Wendy Norman*

Dr. Wendy V. Norman (she/her), MD, MHSc, CCFP, FCFP, DTM&H, is a Professor in the UBC Department of Family Practice and Associate Faculty in the UBC School of Population and Public Health and UBC Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She is a family physician-researcher with over 35 years of experience in sexual health and family planning care. She holds the Chair in Family Planning Public Health Research from the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (2014-24) and is an Honorary Associate Professor in the Faculty of Public Health and Policy at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in the UK.



## Director of Indigenous Research



### *Dr. Brittany Bingham*

Dr. Brittany Bingham (she/her), MPH, PhD is of mixed ancestry, a proud member of the Shíshálh Nation and inaugural Director of Indigenous Research at CGSHE. She has worked in various capacities in research with Indigenous communities and policy for over 15 years. She is passionate about community-driven research, Indigenous research methods, health equity, Indigenous women's health, Indigenous housing and homelessness, cultural safety and reconciliation. Dr. Bingham has overseen Indigenous cultural safety and humility efforts across research practices at CGSHE/ University of British Columbia. Dr. Bingham is the Principal Investigator for the AMPLIFY project, a community-based participatory action research study that draws upon quantitative, qualitative, Indigenous and art-based methods.

## Research Education Lead & Interim Community Research Hub Faculty Co-Lead



### *Dr. Andrea Krüsi*

Dr. Andrea Krüsi (she/her) is a research scientist with CGSHE as well as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Social Medicine in the Department of Medicine at the University of British Columbia. She is also an Associate Faculty Member with the UBC School of Population and Public Health. Dr. Krüsi is the Principal Investigator (PI) for the qualitative and arts-based component of the AESHA Project, focused on the social and structural factors shaping sex workers' occupational health and safety.

## Interim Community Research Hub Faculty Co-Lead



### *Dr. Kathleen Deering*

Dr. Kathleen Deering (she/her) is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Social Medicine in the Department of Medicine at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Deering is also an Associate Member, Division of Occupational and Environmental Health with the UBC School of Population and Public Health. Dr. Deering is a Principal Investigator on SHAWNA (Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS: Women's Longitudinal Needs Assessment), a longitudinal community-based open cohort of women living with HIV who live and/or access care in Metro Vancouver, Canada.

## Research Education Lead



### *Dr. Travis Salway*

Dr. Travis Salway (he/him) is a research scientist at CGSHE as well as an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University. A social epidemiologist, Dr. Salway works to understand and improve the health of Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (2S/LGBTQ+) populations. Dr. Salway is the Principal Investigator for the REAFFIRM collaborative, an interdisciplinary team committed to promoting 2S/LGBTQ+ health equity.

## Communications Lead



### *Altaira Northe*

Altaira Northe (she/her) is the Communications Lead at CGSHE. She has worked in public health communications for over 15 years, facilitating communications for complex organizations. She is a passionate advocate for easy-to-understand lay language health-care resources and collaboration across silos.

## Administrative Manager



### *To be announced*

CGSHE is in the process of hiring a new Administrative Manager. We would like to give a huge thank-you to our outgoing Director of Operations, Amber Stefanson, who left CGSHE in August for a new role with UBC's Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences.

## CGSHE faculty members

### Core faculty

Core faculty are UBC or SFU faculty members whose primary research affiliation are based with the Centre for Gender & Sexual Health Equity.

- Dr. Brittany Bingham
- Dr. Jill Chettiar
- Dr. Kathleen Deering
- Dr. Shira Goldenberg
- Dr. Hannah Kia
- Dr. Andrea Krusi
- Dr. Travis Salway
- Dr. Kate Shannon
- Dr. Saraswathi Vedam
- Dr. Mei-ling Wiedmeyer

### Associate faculty

Associate faculty are UBC or SFU faculty members, including clinical faculty members who are associated with the Centre, but typically do not hold office or research space at the Centre.

- Dr. Jane Buxton
- Dr. Samantha Dawson
- Dr. Mark Gilbert
- Dr. Troy Grennan
- Dr. Maria Hubinette
- Dr. Patti Janssen
- Dr. Mary Kestler
- Dr. Ruth Elwood Martin

- Dr. Jeannie Morgan
- Dr. John Oliffe
- Dr. Farah Schroff
- Dr. Julia Smith
- Dr. Meaghan Thumath

### Affiliate faculty

Affiliate faculty are faculty members at an institution other than UBC or SFU who are affiliated with the Centre but do not hold grants, nor have access to office or research space at the Centre.

- Dr. Leonora C. Angela
- Dr. Miriam Harris
- Dr. Rod Knight
- Dr. Ruth Lavergne
- Dr. Angela Liu
- Dr. Carmen Logie
- Dr. Tara Lyons
- Dr. Eileen Pitpitan
- Dr. Ashleigh Rich
- Dr. Germaine Tuyisenge



# Producing & advancing knowledge

## Overview

Gender equity and sexual health are increasingly recognized as critical global health, medicine, and human rights priorities at the forefront of achieving gender equality and meeting global health targets. CGSHE is uniquely positioned to address gender and sexual health inequities in BC, Canada, and globally. The breadth of research conducted by CGSHE faculty supports intersecting marginalized populations including Indigenous and racialized people, sex workers, im/migrant women, women living with HIV, and LGBTQ2S+ people. CGSHE faculty members work in collaboration with these people and communities, building unique partnerships that enable the advancement of knowledge that truly supports the communities in which the research takes place.

CGSHE researchers produce and advance knowledge through traditional academic channels, such as peer-reviewed publications and conferences, as well as engaging in deep knowledge translation, to advance gender and sexual health equity in academia and beyond.

## Academic metrics

### Studies & participants

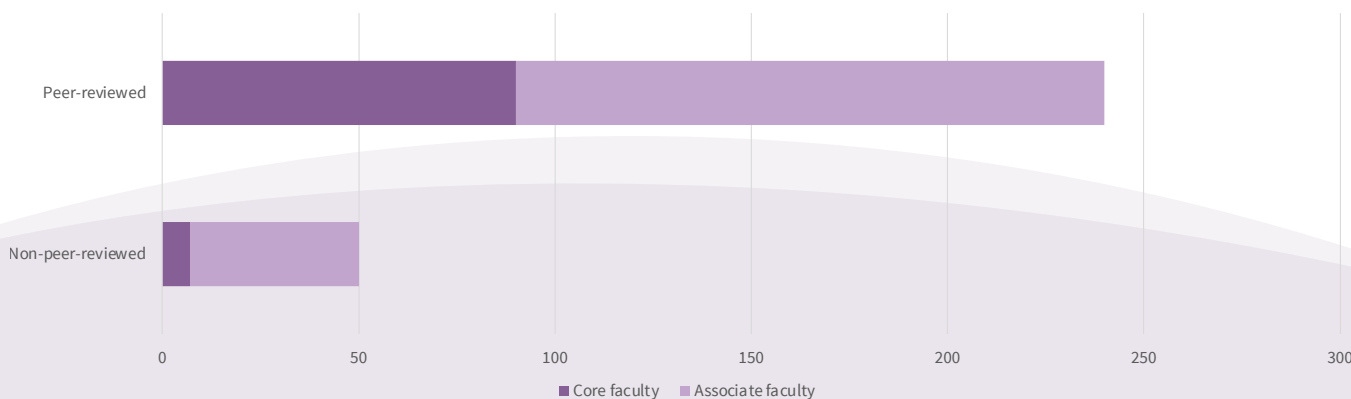
**24**

active studies

**32,100**

subjects enrolled (cumulative)

### Publications



Funding

**\$6,136,834**

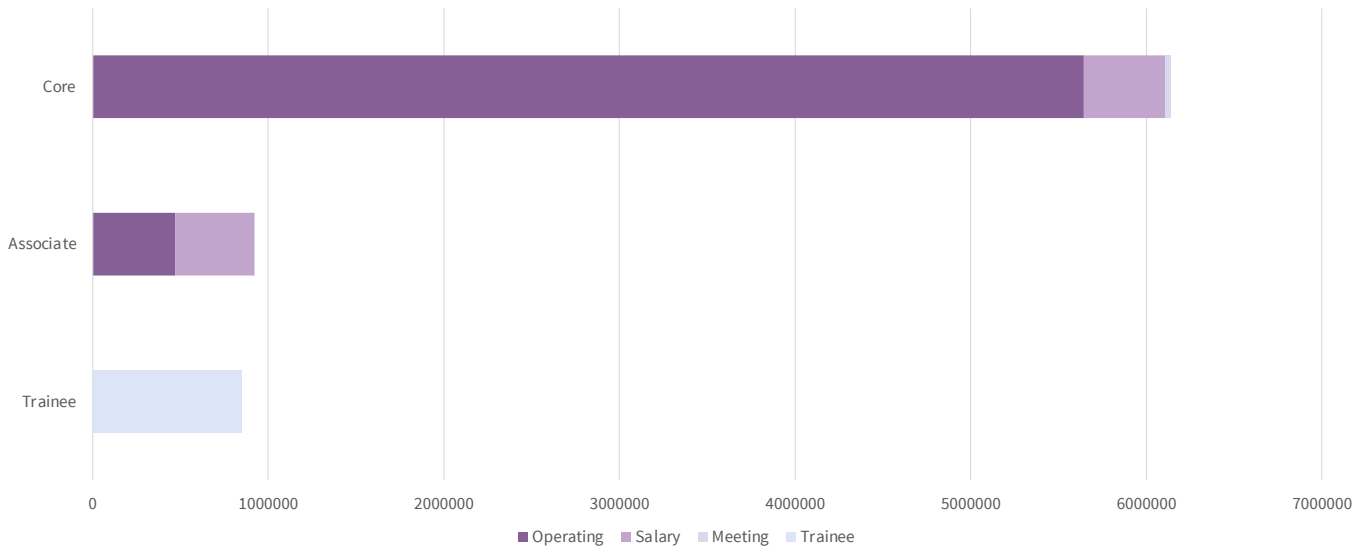
core faculty

**\$921,833**

associate faculty

**\$849,650**

trainees



Awards highlights

**Dr. Brittany Bingham**

BC Business Woman of the Year – Changemaker  
 May/June 2022 Issue. BC Business  
 Magazine, Vancouver, BC

**Dr. Saraswathi Vedem**

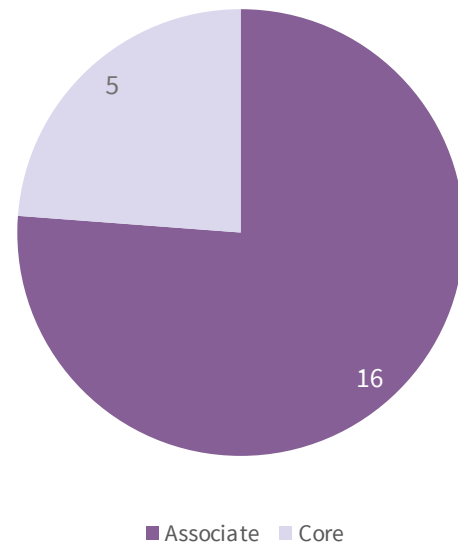
Therese Dondero Endowed Memorial Lecture,  
 American College of Nurse-Midwives 2022

**Dr. Mei-ling Wiedmeyer**

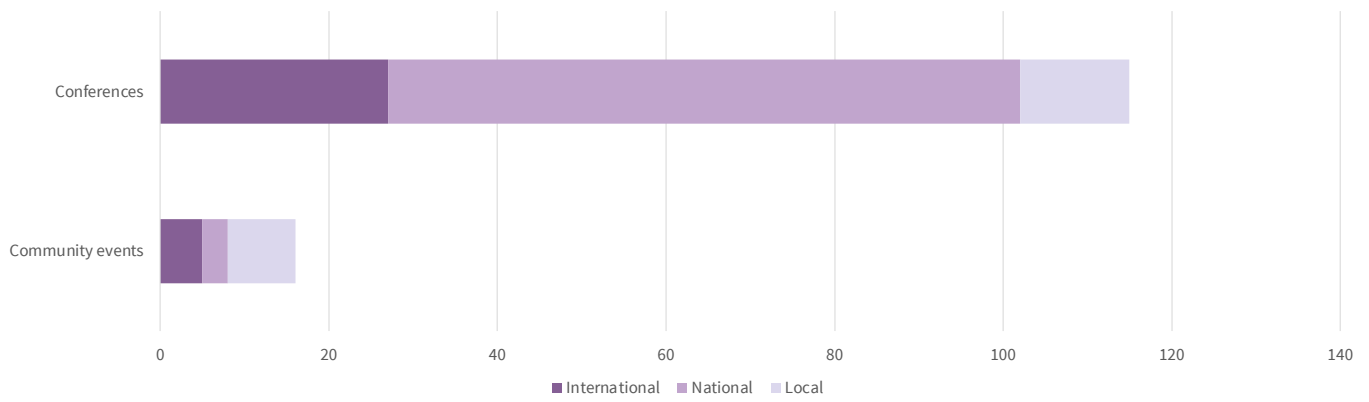
2021 – 2022 Faculty of Medicine Strategic  
 Investment Fund, University of British Columbia

Awards, recognition & honours

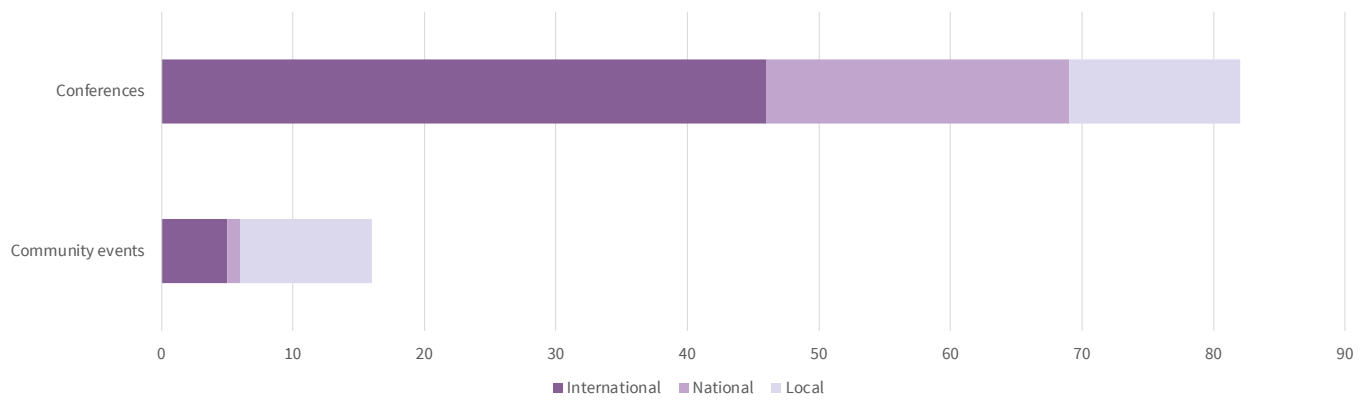
Total awards: 31



### Conferences & events attended by core faculty & their trainees



### Conferences & events attended by associate faculty & their trainees



# Knowledge translation

CGSHE researchers value collaboration and stakeholder engagement. They work hand-in-hand with other academics across UBC, SFU and beyond. In addition, a wide diversity of community members engage with, and co-create, research projects in collaboration with CGSHE researchers. This might include work with community advisory boards, health services, policy agencies, and representatives from the communities they work in.

The expertise and engagement that community partners provide as valued contributors to CGSHE research have made our robust knowledge translation program possible. This work is supported by CGSHE’s in-house KT/Communications team through the creation of easy-to-understand infographics of their research findings, and dissemination of research via CGSHE’s social media channels, newsletter, and other non-traditional channels. Faculty members prioritize non-academic dissemination, using platforms like podcasts, op-eds, media interviews, social media, infographics, newsletters, and plain-language materials to share their findings back with the communities that have made their work possible.

Community members across the spectrum of CGSHE’s research have participated in CGSHE studies that use arts-based data collection methods in their research practices. This has led to rich research findings, offering new and unique ways to share research results back to participants and the public at large.

## Media highlights

### Los Angeles Times

Pregnant people of color more likely to get procedures they didn’t consent to, study finds

*Dr. Saraswathi Vedam*

### The Tyee

How medical bills can slam a newcomer to BC

*Dr. Shira Goldenburg*

### CBC News

BC woman says doctor shortage, anti-Indigenous bias may be why doctors missed her cancer

*Dr. Farah Schroff*

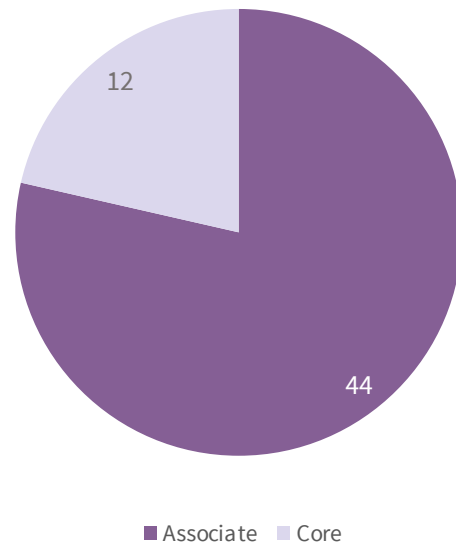
### Policy Options

Future pandemics demand a response that’s better focused on inequities

*Dr. Julia Smith*

## Media appearances

Total media appearances: 56



## Arts-based events

### Core faculty



The artist, Dionne Paul, is kneeling over a yellow cloth on the floor. The walls are adorned with Indigenous art.

### AMPLIFY arts-based workshops

AMPLIFY recently completed three in-depth arts-based workshops with lead artist, Dionne Paul. With guidance from Elders, Dionne Paul and the research team organized workshops for participants to learn and create traditional and universal forms of Indigenous art as a method for storytelling. The workshops fostered a safe, therapeutic and empowering space for researchers and community partners to use art as a critical way of knowing. Learning artistic techniques of moccasin-making and cultural protocols re-enact sacred traditions and histories, creating space for participants to express their subjective truths.



Three photos of two canvases and a collage. The collage has pictures of women and says "beautiful" and "healthy."

### AESHA art workshops

In the past year, in collaboration with PACE Society, a sex worker-led advocacy and support organization, the AESHA (An Evaluation of Sex Workers Health Access) team held two art workshops for sex workers to produce art together and provide information regarding a project led by AESHA PI, Dr. Andrea Krüsi, and UBC doctoral candidate, Jennie Person, that interrogates the intersecting impacts of sex work criminalization and online regulations on sex workers' occupational health and safety.



*A gloved hand holds up three Valentine's hearts. The yellow heart in the middle reads, "Live, love, laugh."*

### **SHAWNA drop-in Love Positive Women event**

The SHAWNA (Sexual Health & HIV/AIDS: Longitudinal Women's Needs Assessment) February 2023 drop-in support group was dedicated to messages of self-love, where attendees crafted Valentine's Day cards. Additionally, members celebrated the "Love Positive Women" movement. "Love Positive Women" is an ongoing project established by Visual AIDS artist member Jessica Whitbread in 2013, in which activists and community members collaborate through paper-making workshops to show their love and support for women living with HIV.

### **Associate faculty**



*A man is smiling down at his dancing partner as they embrace in an art studio. Light gleams on a painting that lines the wall.*

### **Men's health photo exhibition**

The men's health research team created an online photo exhibition as part of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)-funded Men Building Intimate Partner Relationships (MBIPR) project. Using a strength-based and asset-building approach, the MBIPR project chronicles the connections between masculinities and men's intimate partner relationships with an emphasis on equitable and sustainable partnerships.

See the men's health photo exhibition:  
<https://mbipr.menshealthresearch.ubc.ca/>

## Additional KT deliverables

Knowledge translation activities come in many shapes and sizes. Below we're sharing some important KT highlights from the reporting period.

### Podcasting

AESHA PI, Dr. Andrea Krüsi, and UBC doctoral student, Jenn McDermid, contributed to and co-produced an episode of the award-winning podcast Crackdown focused on the gendered impacts of intersecting forms of criminalization among sex workers who use drugs.

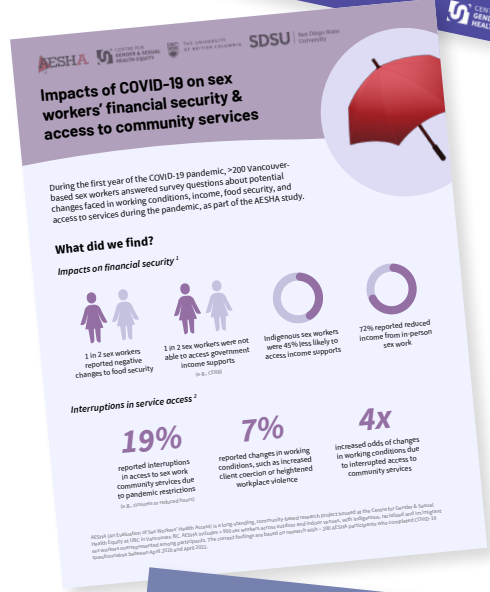
Listen to the Ep. 35: On the Clock of Crackdown: <https://www.crackdownpod.com/episodes/episode-35-on-the-clock>

### Newsletters

During the reporting period, the AESHA and SHAWNA teams released one and three newsletters respectively. These newsletters are tailored to meet the needs of community partners and members, including participants, and provide updates on components such as new team members, outreach updates, new research and supports, as well as opportunities to participate in future research.

### Other

CGSHE researchers collaborated with community partners and CGSHE's KT/Communications team to co-create infographics, visual reports, process documents and blog posts.



## CGSHE communications metrics

The CGSHE Communications team promotes the work of CGSHE faculty members and trainees through various social media channels and our monthly newsletter.

### Highlights

From May 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023

**28%**

growth in our  
newsletter subscribers

**1078**

hours of content  
watched on our YouTube

**54%**

growth in our  
LinkedIn followers

### Social media

As of August 31, 2023



4322 followers



2026 followers



653 followers



676 followers



192 followers

### Newsletter

CGSHE sends out a monthly newsletter via Mailchimp featuring research highlights, CGSHE news, and information about upcoming events.

**1883**

total subscribers

**38%**

average open rate

**6.8%**

average click rate

*Our open and click rates are well above the average rates of 21.33% and 2.62% respectively.*



# Building research capacity

## Overview

CGSHE builds research capacity by bringing together interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral researchers and trainees to transform the landscape of gender and sexual health equity research. Our popular CGSHE Speaker Series and CGSHE Spotlight Series highlight cutting edge research in the field of gender and sexual health equity, and learnings on decolonizing gender and sexual health research respectively.

The semi-annual Trainee Research Symposium offers the space for trainees to practice their presentation skills and learn about the larger scope of research by their peers at the Centre.

Community partnerships are vital to the research of CGSHE's faculty members. The ongoing relationships that faculty have built, in collaboration with partners, have enriched CGSHE's research and expanded the Centre's research capacity beyond academia.

CGSHE has two locations that support CGSHE faculty, staff and trainees.

## Research space

### *UBC Community Research Hub*

The CGSHE Community Research Hub houses many of the research projects that are at the core of CGSHE. This site is in the heart of the Downtown Eastside and acts as a safe space for research participants to interact with research team members. In this space, research participants can also access resources, snacks and a warm cup of coffee. Some studies offer additional services (e.g., Sexual Health Research Nurse).

This 4,000 sq ft Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI)-funded space includes six clinical research & interview rooms, the CFI-John R. Evans Leaders Fund funded Digital Arts Space (PI: Krüsi), meeting rooms & board room, and research & trainee space.

### *UBC Research/Admin Office*

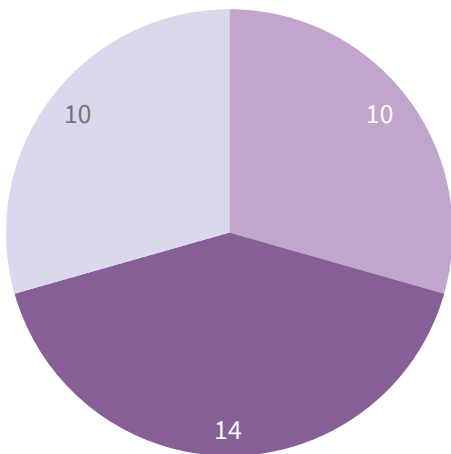
The CGSHE Hornby office is the administrative centre for CGSHE. At this site, we host office space for trainees, researchers and research admin staff, as well as CGSHE operations and communications staff. This 3,000 sq ft space includes meeting rooms, a large board room, faculty offices, a large trainee office and hotdesks for trainees and visiting scholars to come work as needed. This office also houses an Indigenous resource library.

## Researchers & clinicians

CGSHE faculty are working to build research capacity through mentorship and training of the next generation of researchers and clinicians in gender and sexual health equity as evidenced by the diverse range of trainees at CGSHE.

### Faculty

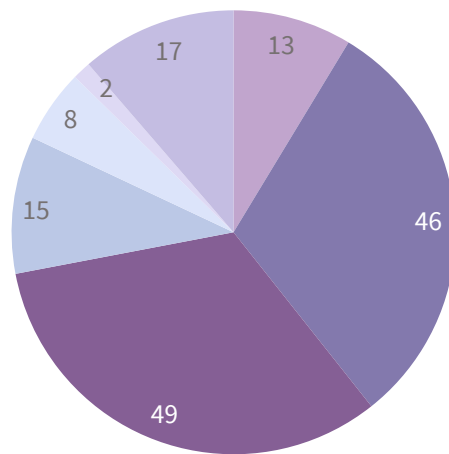
Total faculty members: 34



■ Affiliate ■ Associate ■ Core

### Trainees

Total trainees: 150



■ Postdoctoral ■ Doctoral  
 ■ Graduate ■ Undergraduate  
 ■ Practicum/Co-op ■ Summer students  
 ■ MED FLEX/Elective students

## Events

### Spring 2023 CGSHE Trainee Research Symposium



This was CGSHE’s first in-person Trainee Research Symposium. It was held in collaboration with SFU’s Faculty of Health Sciences. Five trainees - Mika Ohstuka, Parisa Kabir, Milo Ira, Martha Gumprich and Christian Barborini - shared their research with an audience of 56 attendees. Their talks were then watched 561 times on Youtube.

*“It was a really positive experience and I appreciated the opportunity to practice in a lower stress environment.”*

## Spotlight Series

The CGSHE Spotlight Series – Decolonizing Research and Practice – fosters a circle of dialogue and learnings on decolonizing gender and sexual health research. The event is organized and curated by CGSHE Director of Indigenous Research (Dr. Brittany Bingham, Shíshááh Nation) with support from the CGSHE Communications team at the UBC Faculty of Medicine, with Indigenous leaders, Elders and knowledge keepers. From May 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023, we held two Spotlight Series events with over 200 attendees, and 825 recording views on Youtube.

### Speakers

#### Jessy Dame

*Two-Spirit data collection: How can we challenge the history of erasure?*

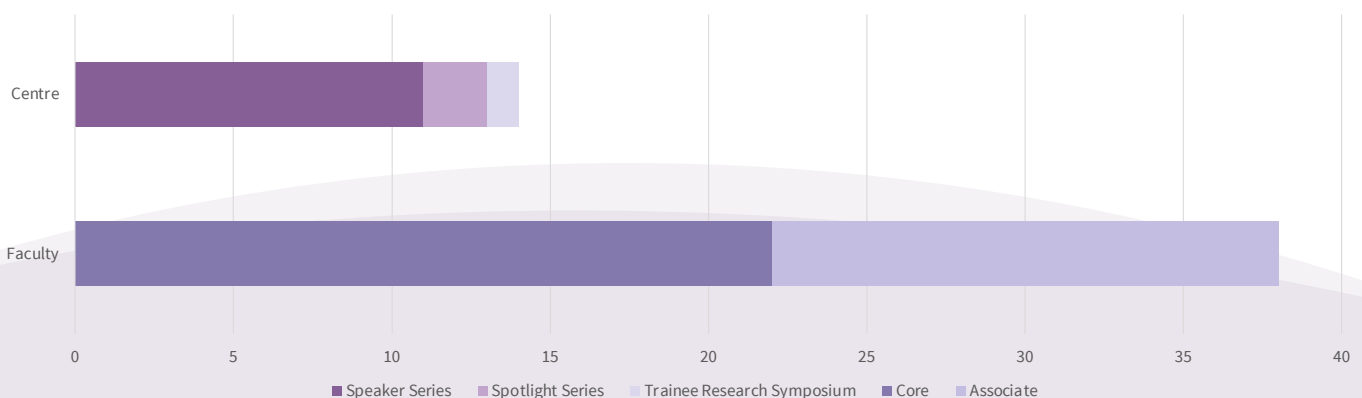
#### Dr. Angela Mashford-Pringle

*From Incarceration to Land-Based Learning: Kijibashik, KEEP2 & Akiikaa*

*“Jessy is an incredible speaker. His engagement is unparalleled and he posits research and directions that destabilize the colonization that the academy purposely wields.”*

*“Angela’s in-depth knowledge and experience provided real life insight on the topic.”*

### Meetings & events held by the Centre or faculty



## Speaker Series

Organized as monthly academic rounds, the CGSHE Speaker Series brings cutting-edge research in the field of gender and sexual health equity to researchers, practitioners, students and interested members of the public. This event is organized and curated by CGSHE's Research Education Leads (Drs. Andrea Krüsi and Travis Salway) with support from the CGSHE Communications team at the UBC Faculty of Medicine. In this reporting period, we held 11 Speaker Series events with over 800 attendees. As of August 31, 2023, these talks have 3,590 views on CGSHE's YouTube channel.

### Speakers

#### Dr. Lyana Patrick, Frank Cohn & Teka Everstz

*Reimagining Pathways to Masculinity: Youth Health Promotion at NexUp*

#### Dr. Ayden Scheim & Shaman Gupta

*Our Health Matters: Transmasculine People's Health & Human Rights in India*

#### Dr. Sofia Bartlett

*You Matter: Co-creating Health Care Policy with People who are Incarcerated*

#### Dr. Gillian Abel

*#DecrimSexWork: Enhancing Justice for Sex Workers in Aotearoa (New Zealand)*

#### Dr. Eileen Pitpitan

*Syndemics, Social Networks & HIV Among Transgender Women In Mexico*

#### Dr. Amaya Perez-Brumer

*Does Global Health Make Data or Health? Learning from Peruvian Trans Women*

#### Dr. Sarah Munro

*Accelerating Access to Abortion Care Through Policy-partnered Research*

#### Dr. Martha Paynter

*Abortion to Abolition: The Path to Reproductive Health & Justice in Canada*

#### Dr. Kinnon R. MacKinnon

*Beyond the Binaries: Detransition in Sexual & Gender Minority Communities*

#### Dr. Sari van Anders

*Gender/Sexual Diversity: Towards More Liberatory Theory & Measurement*

#### Dr. Meera Dhebar

*Queer Worldmaking in Mental Health*

*"Excellent presentation! You made the subject seem so simple and just common sense (which it is), thank you for your expertise."*

*"As a non-professional in this area, I appreciated how accessible, clear and inspiring this presentation is. Inspiring in the sense of being a call to action."*

## Community partnerships

Community-based work is at the core of CGSHE’s research. The deep community partnerships at the centre of this work have taken years (and sometimes decades) to develop. The co-creation that has taken place as a result of the expertise and curiosity of these community partners has enabled CGSHE’s mission to advance gender equity and sexual health for all. These partnerships make it possible for CGSHE researchers to truly collaborate with the communities that their research is serving, ensuring that their research accurately reflects the experience of these communities. Community partners also support the flow of research results back to the community through their generous collaboration on meaningful knowledge translation products. Community partners have brought a vital spark and exceptional depth of lived experience to energise and inform the research of CGSHE’s faculty members.

### Our community partners

Organizations working in collaboration with research projects that are housed at CGSHE.

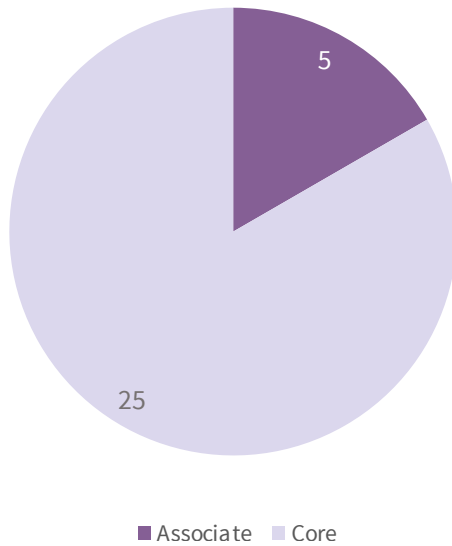


### More community partners

Healthiest Babies Possible, Living Hope, MAP, Oak Tree Clinic, Umbrella Multicultural Health Co-op, Writing Working Group with the Prison Health Interest Group of the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

## Ongoing community partnerships

Total community partnerships: 30



## Highlighted community partnerships

### The IRIS Project's community partners

The IRIS Project has four community advisory boards that function in English, Farsi, Spanish, and Tigrinya. Several of the advisory boards are facilitated by IRIS team members from the same communities. Participants can engage with the project as community partners, community collaborators or community members. Community partners include im/migrant-serving organizations that IRIS regularly engages with: MOSAIC, Sanctuary Health and Watari. Community collaborators include im/migrant serving organizations that IRIS occasionally engages with: Migrant Rights Network, Healthiest Babies Possible, MOSAIC Youth Services, Multi-Agency Partnership, PIRS, SUCCESS, and Umbrella Multicultural Health Co-Operative. Community members include im/migrants who are part of the general public that we engage with through knowledge translation via social media, community forums, churches etc.

### WISH Drop-In Centre Society

WISH Drop-In Centre Society is a community sex worker partner and advisory board member. WISH is the only drop-in and clinic space for sex workers in Vancouver, a safe, non-judgmental space for women, and is opened 24 hours, seven days a week. WISH also operates a mobile outreach van across Vancouver that provides regular support to our outreach and interview team, both for recruitment and retention.

### ACPNET-BC

ACPNET-BC has been a community partner of SHAWNA since 2014. ACPNET-BC provides support, companionship, community, and empowerment based on common cultural background to mitigate the effects of stigma, loneliness, and separation from loved ones while managing life with HIV/AIDS. In March 2023, Dr. Kathleen Deering gave a presentation entitled "Criminalization of HIV non-disclosure, HIV stigma and gender-based violence: context and calls to action" (March 4, 2023) at the Afro-Canadian Positive Network of BC Annual Retreat.

### Egale Canada

Egale Canada works to improve and save lives of 2SLGBTQI people through research, education, awareness, and by advocating for human rights and equality in Canada and around the world. Egale partners with several CGSHE researchers, including Dr. Hannah Kia and Dr. Travis Salway. Dr. Kia's project with Egale examines the social service experiences and needs of transgender and gender diverse older adults (50 years of age or older). Dr. Salway is collaborating with Egale to launch a new website this fall to index 2SLGBTQI-affirming laws and policies across Canada.

See the Rainbow Canada website: <https://www.rainbowcanada.org>

# Advancing health & policy benefits

## Overview

CGSHE's Strategic Plan includes a call to advance research, policy and practice priorities. CGSHE researchers undertake a combination of clinical and intervention research and community-based cohorts and social/policy research. This work gathers important qualitative data to support underserved communities, and also dives into the stories and experiences of research participants. It allows CGSHE research to inform evidence-based policies and recommendations that uphold the values and needs of the communities that they collaborate with.

## Highlights in advancing health & policy benefits

### *Social & Structural Determinants of Sex Workers' Health & Safety*

Dr. Andrea Krüsi's research documented the complex interactions among structural (e.g., criminalization of sex work), social (e.g., gender inequities, stigma) and environmental (e.g., housing and sex work settings) factors that shape sex workers' opportunities to negotiate sexual risk reduction. Results of this work have been featured in high impact publications and have garnered 80+ media citations. Her research has also generated substantial interest from policy makers and has informed strategic litigation. In 2022, Dr. Krüsi provided Expert Testimony based on AESHA research at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in the context of a constitutional challenge brought forward by the Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform. In the same year, together with Dr. Shira Goldenberg, she was invited to present AESHA findings to the Canadian House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights to inform deliberations on Canada's sex work legislation.

### *MindMapBC*

MindMapBC is an integrated research and knowledge translation platform that supports 2S/LGBTQ+ people in finding mental health services that affirm their identities and experiences. It is a collaboration between the REAFFIRM Collaborative and several community partners. MindMapBC was created to help address gaps in mental healthcare access faced by 2S/LGBTQ+ people (Two-Spirit, as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, and other gender and sexual minority people). A recent study of 2S/LGBTQ+ people struggling with depression in Canada found that 95% experienced one or more barriers to accessing mental health services, most commonly due to cost, inadequate insurance, stigma, or lack of affirming providers. During the reporting period, MindMap had 17,000 visits.

See the MindMapBC website: <https://www.mindmapbc.ca/>

## *Gender & Sex in Methods & Measurement Toolkit*

CGSHE Gender & Sex in Methods & Measurement Research Equity Toolkit addresses the pervasive erasure in research of people who are marginalized and minoritized on the basis of their genders and sexes. This includes intersex, trans, nonbinary and Two-Spirit people, among others. Oftentimes, these communities are ignored by researchers or tacked onto existing research studies without carefully considering what inclusion means in terms of eligibility criteria, recruitment strategies, sample size requirements, stratification, survey design and a myriad of other steps in and elements of the research process. During the reporting period, CGSHE released Tool #4: Asking About & Measuring Participants' Genders & Sexes, Tool #5: Methodological Responsiveness Across Time, and Tool #6: Working with Pre-Existing, Secondary & Older Data.

This work is led by UBC Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. A.J. Lowik, and developed with the input of an advisory of experts who work to acknowledge gender and sexual diversity in research.

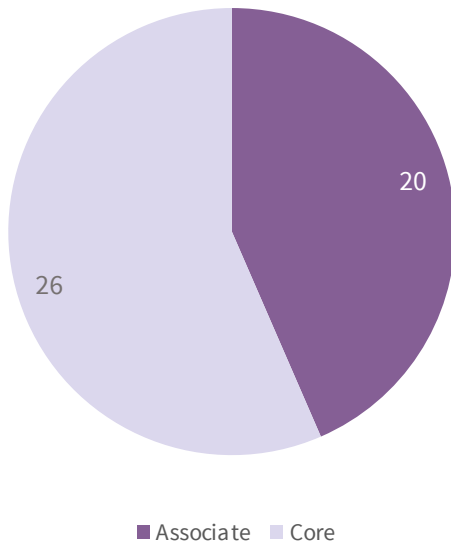


# Policy development & advocacy

Evidence-based policy development and advocacy is just one of the key components of CGSHE's Mission. When CGSHE's research is cited in policy guidelines, we are one step closer to this goal.

## Publications including policy evaluation

Total publications: 46



## Advancing policy & best practices





CENTRE FOR  
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