

TRENT CENTRE FOR AGING & SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2018 • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 1



The TCAS Executive. L to R; Mark Skinner, Elizabeth Russell, Sally Chivers, May Chazan, Peri Ballantyne, Beryl Cable-Williams, Jim Struthers, Barb Marshall (not pictured: Stephen Katz and Suzanne Bailey)

Celebrating Five Successful Years of TCAS

The germ of the idea to create a Centre devoted to interdisciplinary aging studies began with Dr. Stephen Katz who noticed Trent University was home to a number of accomplished scholars engaged in the field. The story of Prof. Katz's email inviting these scholars to collaborate has been documented elsewhere; suffice to say, what became of the idea to join forces went beyond what Dr. Katz ever imagined. Indeed, it materialized into a bricks and mortar research Centre with more than forty members. Now, in 2018, we are celebrating the fifth anniversary of the Trent Centre for Aging & Society.

Our members have attracted more than \$2.7 million in external funding since the Centre opened its doors. They have published award-winning books and countless journal articles. They have presented their work at conferences and symposia around the world, and the Royal Society of Canada named our founding director, Dr. Mark Skinner, to its College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

The Centre has also welcomed visiting scholars from eight countries, with more on the way. They come to work with our members because Centre faculty are world-renowned experts in their respective fields and Trent University is a particularly welcoming environment in which to work.

In the exciting column, we're pleased to announce that TCAS executive member, Dr. Sally Chivers stepped into the role of Centre director in July after Dr. Mark Skinner accepted the role of acting dean, social sciences at Trent. Many of the accomplishments listed above are due, in large part, to Dr. Skinner's leadership, including the recently announced decision by Trent University to join the Age-friendly University Global Network. He set an example Dr. Chivers is eager to follow and expand upon.

The Centre has just moved into its new home in Bata Library as one of the anchors of the University's new Research and Innovation Cluster. It is

In This Issue

Thank You Mark / Welcome Sally.....	2
Welcome New Members.....	3/4
Katz Lecture.....	4
TCAS Welcomes the World.....	5/6
Next Gen Scholars.....	6/7
Point of View.....	7/8
Trent Joins AFU Global Network.....	8
Aging Studies / Summit on Aging	9
Communities within Communities / Aging & Society Seminar Series / Up Coming.....	10

TCAS

An interdisciplinary research centre of faculty, students, and community stakeholders working together to build dialogue around issues related to aging and critically informed aging research.

Vision

Trent University is an international leader in interdisciplinary aging studies.

TCAS Director

Dr. Sally Chivers
sallychivers@trentu.ca

Newsletter

Writer/Editor: Justin Sutton
justindsutton@trentu.ca

Writer/Copy Editor: Sylvia Dick
sdick@trentu.ca

Thank You, Dr. Mark Skinner

from this new base of operations that we will organize and run the first international aging studies conference hosted by the University. TrentAging2019 has already accepted a global contingent of participants, and we expect their numbers to grow to more than 200.

We wish to thank all of you whose work has turned the Trent Centre for Aging & Society into a truly world class site of excellence. We look forward to continuing to foster new, innovative collaborations with other like-minded scholars and community partners in an effort to challenge the way we think about aging in Canada and beyond. ✧



The new TCAS office in Bata Library

You know **Dr. Mark Skinner** has stepped down as the first director of TCAS to take up the position of acting dean, social sciences. What you might not know is that during his time as TCAS director, Mark had an outsized impact on the Centre's partners and collaborators.



Dr. Mark Skinner, Acting Dean, Social Sciences

In fact, we wish to share with Mark and all our members three particularly poignant messages that are far more eloquent than we might be on the matter.

“Successfully launching and presiding over a new university research centre such as TCAS requires a demanding combination of interpersonal, research, administrative, and community engagement skills. In his 5 years as our first director, Mark demonstrated that he possessed all of these in abundance. First, he led by example. Mark is one of Canada's leading pioneers in the new field of geographical gerontology and his numerous publications opened my eyes, as an historian, to a very new and exciting disciplinary approach to exploring the challenges of population aging. Mark brought tremendous enthusiasm to his direction of the TCAS. His expertise and success in research fund-raising helped to launch TCAS on a firm financial foundation. Mark also excelled in his ability to reach out to the surrounding Peterborough community, through his participation in a series of highly successful summits on aging, and through involving community members, from the start, in the advisory and organizational structure of the TCAS.

Mark has also been an outstanding mentor and supervisor to a growing number of Trent students interested in pursuing research and career opportunities in the field of aging. As a colleague, Mark has also been a genuine pleasure to work with. His quiet sense of humour, exceptional organizational efficiency, and genuine excitement in pioneering a new interdisciplinary Centre for critical aging studies has inspired us all.”

- **Dr. James Struthers**, TCAS executive member and Professor Emeritus, School for the Study of Canada, Trent University.

“Mark has been the number one supporter of my academic career; I truly would not be where I am today if it wasn't for him and his devotion to training and ensuring the success of young scholars, like myself. He has provided me with guidance, advice and

opportunities that I know I will carry with me in all of my future endeavors.”

- **Amber Colibaba**, TCAS Research Associate (supervised by Dr. Mark Skinner)

“As the first official hire at TCAS, I feel extremely fortunate to have worked with Mark in the developmental stage of the Centre. I remember him framing his approach to work with the simple phrase “work hard and be nice” and that has rung so true. Mark's leadership style seems to be based in a real trust and belief in the power of relationships and it has been wonderful to see the Centre grow and thrive by including so many stellar members, visitors, and partners.”

- **Sylvia Dick**, Administrative Coordinator, Trent Centre for Aging & Society

From all of your friends and colleagues at TCAS, thank you Mark for your service to the Centre and for putting us on the firm footing we find ourselves today. We cannot imagine a more successful beginning and we wish for that same success to follow you in your new role. ✧

Welcome, Dr. Sally Chivers

Founding TCAS executive member, **Dr. Sally Chivers** took on the role of director this past summer. She is a distinguished scholar in the fields of critical age and disability studies and full professor in the Departments of English and Gender & Women's Studies. Prof. Chivers has been the chair of the Department of Canadian Studies and acting director of the English graduate program in Public Texts.

Current chair of the Modern Language Association's Age Studies Forum Executive Committee, Prof. Chivers' teaching focuses on illness and literature, feminism and disability, aging, care and culture, as well as

Welcome, Dr. Sally Chivers Continued

gender and popular culture. In the coming year, Prof. Chivers will teach a 4th year English course about disability theory. Sally's scholarly work is well known to readers of this newsletter. So too is her influence on the formation and direction of the Centre. With that in mind, we thought it would be interesting to introduce you to another side of Sally in the form of a modified Proust Questionnaire.

Q: What do you consider the most over-rated virtue?

A: Wealth.

Q: What do you consider the most under-rated virtue?

A: Generosity.

Q: Which words or phrases do you think are over-used?

A: It's well past time to put the damaging and harmful metaphor of the "silver tsunami" to bed. And I dislike "K" and "ok" in text and email exchanges.

Q: What do you consider your greatest achievement?

A: I don't mean to brag but last week I didn't forget to add the attachment to a single email.

Q: What is the quality you most admire in another person?

A: Curiosity

Q: Who are your favourite writers?

A: Eden Robinson, Nadine Gordimer, Toni Morrison.

Q: What scholar has had the greatest influence on you?

A: I expect you wouldn't find a single piece of work I've published without quoting at least one of David T. Mitchell, Sharon Snyder, and Robert McRuer. They lead the way theoretically, methodologically, and politically in edgy, important humanities scholarship.

Q: What is your motto, the words you live by or that mean a lot to you?

A: Be kind be kind be kind.

Q: What would you say to your seventeen-year-old self about aging studies and where it can take you?

A: When I was seventeen, I randomly took Margaret Laurence's *The Stone Angel* out of the Calgary Public Library. It shook me then to be so close to Hagar Shipley, the nonagenarian main character. I think I would tell myself to have faith in thinking that was important and that following that thread could lead to a world of new ideas and perspectives on being old and a woman. ✧



Dr. Sally Chivers, Director, Trent Centre for Aging & Society

Welcome New Members

We're happy to introduce six new members since our [Summer 2018 newsletter](#).

Cindy Clarke is a new graduate associate with the Centre and is enrolled in the Foundations in Interdisciplinary Aging Studies course. Cindy is interested in conducting research in the area of social policy and aging. Her outlook is influenced by her previous experience as a social worker. Cindy is also the Community Experiential and Education Coordinator for the Trent/Fleming School of Nursing.



Cindy Clarke

Nicole Dalmer joins TCAS as a Postdoctoral Fellow working with Centre executive members, Dr. Barb Marshall and Dr. Stephen Katz, on a project titled "Digital Infrastructures of health and ageing." Nicole will be lending a hand on the Host Committee for our upcoming conference [TrentAging2019](#) and is looking forward to engaging with the Trent and Peterborough communities during her two years here. (read more on pages 6 & 7.)



Nicole Dalmer

Mariana Castelli Rosa is a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies at Trent University. Mariana took ENGL 5307H: Aging, Disability and Care in Literature and Culture (taught by TCAS Director Dr. Chivers) as part of her M.A. in Public Texts. Among other takeaways, Mariana discovered a new interest while taking the course, that is, the intersections of marginalized communities with the theme of aging. Along with her studies, Mariana is currently working on the Partnership Grant project “Imagine Age-Friendly ‘Communities within Communities’” as a student, and with Dr. Chivers as a research assistant.



Mariana Castelli Rosa

Erin Goodman is the new Age-friendly Coordinator for Peterborough and joins TCAS as a Community Associate. In her role, she serves the Greater Peterborough Area in managing the implementation of the Age-friendly Peterborough Community Action Plan. Her past experience includes a position with the Policy Initiatives Unit of the Ontario Seniors’ Secretariat (now the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility).



Erin Goodman

Sandy Robinson is an MA candidate in Public Texts at Trent University with a deep interest in the intersections of aging and disability. Her interest in aging studies was also piqued when taking ENGL 5307H: Aging, Disability, and Care in Literature and Culture with Dr. Chivers, and it has developed to the point that Sandy is now enrolled in our new graduate [Collaborative Specialization in Aging Studies](#).



Sandy Robinson

Linnea Veloce is in her first year of an MA in Psychology at Trent University. Her primary research interest is in social anxiety however her community involvement with older adults took shape while volunteering at Ontario Shores Centre of Mental Health Sciences, where she assisted recreational therapists in facilitating various activities within the Geriatric Psychiatric and Dementia units. Linnea hopes to eventually expand her research on social anxiety in young adults to the aging population to explore its relevancy and find ways to help maintain active, healthy lifestyles in their communities. ✧



Linnea Veloce



Katz Visiting Scholar

Bagnani Hall was packed and buzzing on October 10 for **Dr. Amanda Grenier’s** talk on Late Life Homelessness. Subtitled “Aging on the Streets, in shelters, and long-term care,” Dr. Grenier’s talk touched on homelessness as a newly emergent late life issue. This, in conjunction with an uptick of older people using food halls and emergency shelters is the basis for what can best be described as a worrying trend. Indeed, she quoted a study that said, “Older people who are homeless have extremely poor health and experience premature aging and a mortality rate three to four times greater than the general population.”

The audience consisted of several candidates running for Peterborough City Council, homelessness advocates, students, faculty members and the broad community. Founded in 2017, the Stephen Katz Distinguished Visiting Scholar in Interdisciplinary Aging Studies is an annual, endowed talk meant to bring a noted scholar to Trent University in order to share their research with the community through a free, accessible talk, as well as their expertise and experience with students and faculty.

“This lecture series is something phenomenal in that it gives attention to social and interdisciplinary issues in aging, which is rare in the field,” said Prof. Grenier. “And it gives people the

opportunity to think about new ideas, topics in aging that might not be seen in the mainstream.”

“We established the Katz lecture in Stephen’s name to honour the contributions he has made to his discipline and to the creation of our Centre,” said Dr. Sally Chivers, director of TCAS. “Without the help of our community we could not keep bringing people of the caliber of Dr. Grenier to Trent and that would be a real loss. Her work, and the work we as a Centre are most interested in, ought to be shared as widely as possible so that it can influence much needed social change.”

If this work is important to you, please consider contributing to the Stephen Katz Distinguished Visiting Scholar Program; you can donate [here](#). ✧



Mark Skinner, Amanda Grenier, Sally Chivers, and Stephen Katz

TCAS Welcomes the World

Austria

Each year TCAS is fortunate to host scholars from around the world who represent a range of disciplines and career stages. In the past five years, we've welcomed fifteen scholars from eight countries!

This July, two early-career researchers – **Vera Gallistl** and **Dr. Anna Wanka** – visited TCAS as part of a collaborative socio-gerontechnology project with Dr. Barb Marshall. During their stay Vera Gallistl, PhD candidate (University of Vienna, Austria), and Dr. Anna Wanka, post-doctoral researcher (Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany), described their efforts to establish an international and interdisciplinary network of scholars – spanning the fields of science and technology studies as well as critical and social gerontology. They also shared what drew them to the field initially and what they find so engaging about it. You can view the brief interview [here](#). ✨

“A big share of our communities is over 60 and it’s supposed to keep growing, so we can’t just leave the topic to medical research and the natural sciences. I think it’s important that sociologists are involved. Other than that, I think there is a lot we can learn from older people.”

– Vera Gallistl



Vera Gallistl and Anna Wanka

Finland

Dr. Outi Hakola is a lecturer in North American Studies at the University of Helsinki, Finland and she is conducting research while at TCAS for the 2018-2019 academic year. Her project "Constructing Good Death: End-of-Life Issues in Documentaries" explores documentaries that deal with end-of-life issues, including questions of the right to die, palliative care, and hospice practices with the view that medical care is not enough on its own but that end-of-life care should also look after the psychological, spiritual, and emotional needs of the dying and their families. She studies how end-of-life documentaries construct, normalize, and challenge cultural understandings of "good death" through politics of representation, processes of filming, and social uses of the documentaries.

We sat down with Dr. Hakola to learn more about why she chose to come to TCAS, her experiences and interests as



Outi Hakola

an Aging Studies scholar, and what she hopes to accomplish while here.

What brought you to Trent University in Peterborough, Canada for this research visit?

I visited the department of Canadian Studies at Trent University in 2016 as part of a staff exchange program between the University of Helsinki and Trent University. During that time, I had the pleasure to meet with TCAS staff and some members of Hospice Peterborough. I was

excited to hear about the participatory and communal aspects of these researchers and while I was planning for my current research project, I decided to add another research visit. While I have previously done a lot of theoretically oriented research, I thought I could learn new approaches and practices from the experiences of TCAS researchers.

How did you get started in Aging Studies?

When I was choosing my PhD topic, I wanted to discuss death and dying. This was partially due to some of my personal experiences with loss. When working with dying, I also started to see the questions about aging and the challenges of aging Western societies from a new perspective. And so, almost as a byproduct, I started to pay attention to these debates in a new way. Currently, my research combines elements from death and dying studies and aging studies when I look at the representations of dying in hospice documentaries and how these documentaries could be used as part of health care processes and practices.

Can you describe a memorable experience you've had in your career as an aging studies scholar?

Some five years ago, I organized (together with my colleagues) a series of public lectures about mortality in Finnish society. We visited different cities in Finland, and although we did not advertise the event to be about aging as such, we soon noticed that every event was packed and most participants were in their 70s and 80s. After each event, there was a line of people wanting to speak with me and share their experiences. They spoke about how it felt when you start getting invitations to friends' funerals, instead of to their weddings, or how they had difficulties sharing their own thoughts about getting old and getting ready to die with their children. They felt like no one was ready to admit the need to prepare for what is coming, and they were so happy to talk about their feelings with a stranger. It was a series of emotional encounters, and although the only thing that I did was listen, it was one of the moments

where you realize that your work might matter after all. Sometimes, you don't change a whole society at once, but you might affect someone's life for the briefest of moments.

What are you looking forward to while in Canada?

Scholarly, I look forward to learning more about community engagement in aging and hospice practices. In Finland, the community aspects are sometime undermined as the Nordic welfare society tends to emphasize state-led policies where communities don't have a central role. Thus, I am looking forward to learning about Canadian perspectives and hopefully there are elements that could be applied to Finnish practices as well. I am also curious to learn more about Canadian society and questions of identity. As in many European countries, the US (especially when Trump has a tendency to draw so much attention to himself) takes the majority of media attention. I have always had a highly positive image of Canadian society, so I

now hope to understand it at a deeper level.

Lastly, because I have trained in Film Studies, I look forward to seeing Canadian films and attending different film events and festivals while here. ✧

Next Gen Scholars

We are thrilled to welcome **Nicole Dalmer** to Trent and to TCAS as a Postdoctoral Fellow. Nicole recently submitted her dissertation, "Informing care: Mapping the social organization of families' information work in an aging in place climate" at The University of Western Ontario's Faculty of Information and Media Studies. Her dissertation research employed institutional ethnography to explore the often-invisible information work done by family care partners of older adults.

Nicole will be working closely with **Dr. Barb Marshall** and **Dr. Stephen Katz** on "Being Connected at Home: Making Use of Digital Devices in Later Life."

Next Gen Scholars Continued

This is a large international project, funded by the European “More Years, Better Lives” initiative with partners in Sweden, Spain and the Netherlands. The research project directed by the Trent team focuses on digital infrastructures of health and well-being in later life.

Nicole brings to the project unique expertise on the ways that information and technologies intersect in everyday experiences of aging. She will be involved in all aspects of the project as they explore the role of digital technologies in relation to experiences of feeling connected in life later and the ways that expertise about ageing, health, and technology is both produced and reproduced. Nicole is also the recent recipient of the Michael F. Harcourt Policy Fellowship from AGE-WELL, enabling her to enrich the project’s policy relevance and knowledge mobilization.



Nicole Dalmer and Barb Marshall

Shortly after beginning her position here, Nicole and Barb travelled to the first annual meeting of the research group in Stockholm, where, in addition to planning research tasks and outcomes, they had the opportunity to flex their creative muscles in a smart home “co-design” workshop presented by the Swedish team. It was a great start to this international collaboration, and the next couple of years promise to be exciting ones for advancing research on aging and technology. ✧

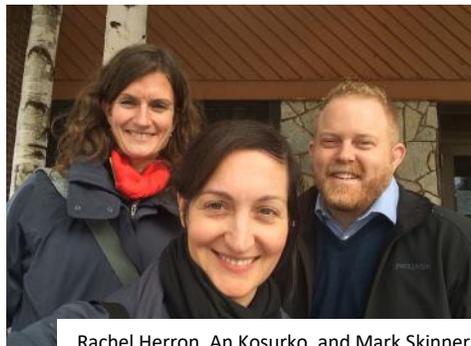
Point of View

How I came to be in Brandon – Saying Yes to New Opportunities!

By: An Kosurko

“Wow, it’s great that you can put your life on hold to work in Manitoba for nine weeks,” someone said to me, but that’s not what I’m doing. Even though I’m temporarily separated from my family and community, I see this as jumping into my life and an incredible opportunity to develop as a research professional on an important CIHR funded project called “Social inclusion for Canadians with Dementia and their carers through Baycrest NBS Sharing Dance.”

Coming out of my M.A. in Sustainability Studies at Trent as a “mature student,” I got started as a research assistant collecting data in the Peterborough pilot under the direction of project Co-investigator Dr. Mark Skinner. Given my knowledge of the program and specific experience with the data collection, I was



Rachel Herron, An Kosurko, and Mark Skinner

delighted to be invited to the work in the Brandon pilot, this time working with Co-investigator and fellow alumna Dr. Rachel Herron at Brandon University. Here I’m given the opportunity to further expand my Canadian community and am enjoying an embeddedness in the Westman Region of the Prairies.

Travelling to rural communities like Minnedosa and Neepawa, and urban settings in Brandon to meet and learn about seniors living with dementia and witnessing the development of the Baycrest NBS Sharing Dance program has been incredible. I’m learning that connectivity is a powerful force that can be achieved in many ways.

Personal reflection on career change

This was a career change for me. I moved from the arts and video production into corporate communications and then became ensconced in research when I completed my M.A. in Sustainability Studies at Trent. Each phase of what I still consider my early career has built on the previous and led me to a new state of awareness and level of professionalism. I’m grateful for the help and opportunities I’ve been given along the way from mentors like Mark Skinner. Going back to school with a family was a challenge in balancing priorities, like any career, but the human community at Trent made it doable. Continued on pg. 8.



Communication has always been a major part of my **work**, and when I look back, there's a clear pathway of growth that's more obvious now than it was at the beginning. I'm fascinated by all the ways we communicate with each other at every age and stage; learning about them never stops. While taking an interest in observations and conversations of human encounter and social inclusion here, I'm working on my own understanding of communities and institutions – how they relate to each other and work together. This project has provided rich teachings, and I have embraced my role as a trainee. I will continue to look at my time in Manitoba as a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow. What comes next? Only time will tell. ✧

Trent Joins the AFU Global Network

Building on our growing reputation for leadership in aging studies, Trent University recently became one of only five Canadian institutions to have officially joined the [Age-Friendly University \(AFU\) Global Network](#), an international network of universities committed to recognizing the distinctive contributions institutions of higher education can make to respond to the interests and needs of an aging population.

The AFU global network was launched in 2012 by Dublin City University in Ireland and is endorsed by the [Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education](#) as a way to positively address the challenges and opportunities associated with the world's aging population. It builds on the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Communities Initiative, which consists of more than 500 cities and communities in 37 countries, working to improve their physical and social environments to become better places in which to grow old.

Of her first undertaking as the newly appointed director of TCAS, Dr. Sally Chivers remarked, "Our desire to be an age-friendly university is an obvious extension of our dedication to being a world leader in interdisciplinary aging studies. This is us practicing what

we teach. It also has the potential to produce a wonderful dynamic in the classroom - students young and old learn from each other's sometimes very different perspectives, which makes for an exciting learning environment."

The University's commitment to age-friendly principles is wide-ranging. For example, TCAS regularly works with the Trent Community Research Centre to facilitate the work of students on aging themed community-based projects. Indeed, the work of several students contributed directly to the creation of the [Age-friendly Peterborough Community Action Plan](#), which recently won recognition at the inaugural Age-Friendly Communities Symposium: Aging with Confidence, organized by the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility in Toronto.

So too, the Centre is committed to working with our University partners to create new learning opportunities for our students. For instance, TCAS was instrumental in establishing Trent's new multi-disciplinary Collaborative Specialization in Aging Studies program, which is open to students from all disciplines at the graduate level. The lynchpin of the program is its core course, **CSAS 5000H: Foundations in Interdisciplinary Aging Studies**, taught by professor emeritus and TCAS executive member, Dr. Stephen Katz. ✧



Glennice Burns. Trevor Holmes. Mark Skinner

The 10 guiding principles of an age-friendly university

1. To encourage the participation of older adults in all the core activities of the university, including educational and research programs.
2. To promote personal and career development in the second half of life and to support those who wish to pursue second careers.
3. To recognize the range of educational needs of older adults.
4. To promote intergenerational learning to facilitate the reciprocal sharing of expertise between learners of all ages.
5. To widen access to online educational opportunities for older adults to ensure a diversity of routes to participation.
6. To ensure that the university's research agenda is informed by the needs of an aging society and to promote public discourse on how higher education can better respond to the varied interests and needs of older adults.
7. To increase the understanding of students of the longevity dividend and the increasing complexity and richness that aging brings to our society.
8. To enhance access for older adults to the university's range of health and wellness programs and its arts and cultural activities.
9. To engage actively with the university's own retired community.
10. To ensure regular dialogue with organizations representing the interests of the aging population.

New Opportunities to Study Aging at Trent

Research, education, and engagement are the three central tenets of TCAS, and in the five years since forming, we have worked to expand the aging studies curriculum opportunities at the University, for undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education students alike.

Aside from numerous course offerings at Trent that touch on aging studies or aging in some way, TCAS has led or been a key collaborator in developing the following courses:

Critical Perspectives on Aging (NURS-2015H) - [Learn more](#).

Foundations in Elder Abuse Education & Prevention (UNIV 2000H) – [Learn more](#).

Foundations in Interdisciplinary Aging Studies (CSAS 5000H) – [Learn more](#).

Foundations in Elder Abuse Education & Prevention (non-credit course) – [Learn more](#). ✦

“Why Aging Studies?” A Student’s Perspective

Kristen Fernandes is a Child and Youth Studies student in her third year at Trent University. She took the online course, *Critical Perspectives on Aging*, last winter and had this to say about it:

Why did you take the course?

I took this course to further my knowledge on our aging population. There is a lot of stigma surrounding it and I wanted to take this course to understand more.



Kristen Fernandes

What interested you about it?

Within this course, it was very interesting to see how prevalent dementia is in our aging population and the lack of resources available to families. This causes physical, emotional and financial stresses on families as someone often has to become the sole caregiver for their aging family member with dementia.

How has the course affected your perspective on aging (if it at all)?

This course has impacted my perspective on aging as I have learned that even though one is aging and getting older, they still like to be as independent as possible. Thus we need to help create resources within our society to allow for this independence. Aging is something we will all eventually go through, so we need to make it as easy as possible for everyone as they age.

Would you recommend this course to anyone?

Regardless of the program, anyone with aging family members could benefit from this course. We live in a society where we see elderly within our communities almost every day. I feel like it’s especially prevalent in Peterborough. Both my grandparents are over 80 years old and I’ve seen how aging has affected them. They want to be very independent; however there are things that they struggle to do such as cutting the lawn or cleaning the house. This course helped me see what society has available to people within our aging society like my grandparents. ✦

Summit on Aging 2018

Dedicated to “dementia dialogues,” the 2018 edition of the Summit on Aging was, by all accounts, a smashing success. Co-led by Dr. Jenny Ingram, Kawartha Centre, and Leslie Parham, Executive Director, Alzheimer Society of Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland and Haliburton the day featured a morning session devoted to diagnostic and legal issues, as well as insights into the impact dance can have on one’s well-being. Award-winning radio documentarian Karin Wells moderated the session.

Dr. Peter Lin, director of primary care initiatives at the Canadian Heart Research Centre, kicked off the afternoon with an informative and often very funny session that had many in the audience looking at sometimes very difficult issues with new eyes.

The day concluded with a stirring



Dr. Jenny Ingram and Leslie Parham

performance by act2studio WORKS that highlighted the everyday realities of living with dementia that left many in the audience weeping in recognition.

The City of Peterborough, Fleming College, Peterborough Public Health,

VON Canada, Age-friendly Peterborough, the Alzheimer Society of Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland and Haliburton, Kawartha Centre, Peterborough County, and the Trent Centre for Aging & Society produce the Summit on Aging in,

what can best be described as a unique and successful collaboration.

The 2018 edition also attracted thirty exhibitors, seven workshops and a sell-out audience of 230. ✦

Communities within Communities

On October 18, TCAS Director **Dr. Sally Chivers** joined Dr. Tamara Daly (project lead) and other co-investigators in Toronto for *EngAGEing Ideas for Age-friendly Communities* – a public panel and discussion held at the Toronto Reference Library. Part of the Aging in the City series, the focus of the event was to share the vision of a new SSHRC-funded project, *Imagining Age-Friendly “Communities within Communities”*: *International Promising Practices Partnership*, which examines the World Health Organization’s Age-Friendly Communities global initiative. The project will bring researchers to twelve cities around the world (including seven across Canada) to investigate which promising practices exist in age-friendly communities. Toronto is the location of the first site visit.

Over 50 audience members gathered to hear vignettes presented by different panel members, each one highlighting the needs of different groups within communities and emphasizing the project’s focus on inclusion and equity. Following the presentation, Dr. Daly opened the floor and proposed several questions to the audience: “From your perspective, when we think about aging in Toronto, what should we remember? What should we focus on? What promising practices promote age equity?”

Many stood up to share their views and make recommendations to the researchers as they embark on this seven-year project.

Answers ranged from concern about climate change, the lack of availability of local fruit and vegetables in the suburbs, inability to communicate with Canadian grandchildren due to a language barrier and even declining English language skills after retirement.

The researchers aim to change the conversation about age-friendly communities to focus on meaning, equity, gender, and culture. Learn more about the project [here](#).



Aging & Society Seminar Series

We’re pleased to announce that visiting scholar, **Dr. Janine Wiles**, will present the first Aging & Society Seminar Series talk of the 2018/2019 academic year. “**Managing Health and Well-Being in Advanced Age**” will take place at 1 pm on Thursday, November 29 in room 411, Bata Library.

Dr. Wiles is Associate Professor in Social and Community Health, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at The University of Auckland, New Zealand.



Janine Wiles

Up Coming

Registration is now open for **TrentAging2019**, the second joint international conference of the North American and European Networks in Aging Studies, and the first hosted by TCAS.

Take Back Aging: Power, Critique, Imagination is a conference by and for researchers, writers, and scholars from all disciplines and at every career stage to share their diverse approaches to conventional fields of gerontology and critical aging studies.

Organized over four days in May 2019, we expect delegates to join us from across the globe. We’re also pleased to say the schedule is on track to make this event one to remember thanks, in part, to the participation of celebrated plenary speakers Dr. Martha Holstein, Dr. Josephine Dolan, Dr. Stephen Katz, and Dr. Kathleen Woodward. We also have two exciting events on tap; one featuring Dr. May Chazan, Canada Research Chair in Gender and Feminist Studies at Trent, and the other led by Dr. Pia Kontos, Senior Scientist, Toronto

Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network.

Keep an eye on www.trentaging2019.com for all the details as they become available and follow us on social media.

Call for Volunteers

We need dynamic, reliable members of the Trent community to help make this a conference to remember. If this is you, please contact us at aging@trentu.ca

For conference information visit trentaging2019.com

Take Back Aging

Power, Critique, Imagination

The second joint conference of the North American and European Networks in Aging Studies hosted by the Trent Centre for Aging & Society



TRENT AGING 2019

MAY 28-31, 2019
Trent University
Peterborough, Canada
trentaging2019.com

CHALLENGE THE WAY YOU THINK



The Raging Grannies perform at the launch of TCAS executive member May Chazan's book, *Unsettling Activisms: Critical Interventions on Aging, Gender, and Social Change*

TRENT CENTRE FOR AGING & SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Stay connected and send us your feedback

Phone: 705-748-1011 ext. 6440

Email: aging@trentu.ca

Facebook: [TrentAging](https://www.facebook.com/TrentAging)

Twitter: [@TrentAging](https://twitter.com/TrentAging)

[YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

www.trentu.ca/aging



TRENT CENTRE FOR AGING & SOCIETY

trent.ca/aging