Another Step Forward for the Knowledge for Change Consortium

Rajesh and I would like to congratulate all of our Cohort II mentors for the completion of the K4C Mentor Training Programme. It has been such a pleasure getting to know each of you through the medium of Moodle and then much more through our time together in Victoria and Surrey. We have learned so much from hearing each of our stories, from learning about the diverse contexts of our communities, countries and regions where we live and work. We have learned about the challenges of poverty, oppression, misogyny, colonized knowledge systems, exclusion of Indigenous ways of knowing, racism and more. We have also learned what can be accomplished when people work together, get the support of allies and build strength from the knowledge of their collective experiences.

We would like to thank each of you, your families and friends and your sponsoring institutions for making it possible for you to participate in MTP II. We would like to offer our deep appreciation to Steve Dooley and Nav Chima and their terrific team at SFU Surrey and to the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, the Victoria Foundation and the University of Victoria team of Continuing Studies, Public Administration and Technology Integrated Learning. Thanks to Darlene Clover for her arts-based research inspirations and to Walter Lepore who has done double duty as both a Mentor and a Manager. Thanks also to Alex Harned, our UVic residency coordinator for her five star organizing and to Eryn Laurin, our work study student, for her hard work and excellent photography skills. As always, the remarkable PRIA team lies behind so much of what we are able to accomplish.

We look forward to working with you as the hubs move forward: Salish Sea Hub, Universiti Sains Malaysia Hub, Raipur Hub, Jaipur Hub and the Cuban hub. We appreciate your stories to help build the K4C and to provide support to the next groups of K4C Mentors.

- RAJESH TANDON & BUDD HALL
Knowledge For Change
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The University of Victoria (UVIC) and Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) in support of UNESCO Chair have collaborated to create and deliver a 21-week Mentorship Training Program to support and strengthen community-based research to address locally pressing societal challenges, including UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The K4C Consortium is conceptualized to seek new ways of learning and creating conditions needed for innovative models of research and research training programs in CBR to flourish. It offers a variety of means to enhance individual and institutional research training capacities and support the transition of K4C trainees to the workplace in academic and non-academic settings.

The Mentorship Training Program (MTP) is designed for experienced practitioners and community-based participatory researchers within and outside academia. The certified mentors play a key role in the development of the local hub, including the creation of teaching curriculum and pedagogy, and the development of research capacities.

Over 21 weeks, mentors embark on a learning journey comprised of 3 primary components: online learning activities, a two week face-to-face learning component, and a field work component to be carried out locally under the guidance of a local supervisor.

The mentorship program offers free and open sources of university-level study materials in multiple languages and the training involves certification which can enhance careers and employability for participating students.

The MTP is offered bi-annually (January - June or August - December). The registration fee is US$2500, including accommodation and meals during the two week face-to-face residency.

2018/2019 Local Training Hubs include:
India (3) | Canada | Cuba | Colombia | Indonesia
| Malaysia | South Africa | Italy

Cohort II out front of the Victoria Native Friendship Centre after their field visits to various CBR sites in Victoria, BC.
The second cohort of the Mentor Training Programme (MTP) under the K4C initiative was organized at University of Victoria (UVIC) and Simon Fraser University (SFU), Canada from 15-27 October 2018.

It was attended by 12 mentors from five hubs spread over four countries (India, Canada, Cuba and Malaysia).

The two-week residency was split between a first week at UVIC and the second week at SFU, which provided different learning opportunities to the mentors.

WEEK ONE:
VICTORIA

The role of Indigenous Knowledge in Contemporary Times - Elder & Professor Lorna Williams

ARTS BASED RESEARCH METHODS

Guest Instructors
Arts based Research

Maeve Lydon
Community Mapping & CBR
Educational program and network developer/ asset-based community development and place mapping

Darlene Clover
Professor of adult education and leadership in the Faculty of Education, University of Victoria. Her areas of research and teaching include cultural leadership and feminist adult education, public pedagogy, and arts-based adult education & research methods.

Monica Prendergast
Poetry and Community Based Research
PhD (Interdisciplinary Studies in Theatre, Philosophy & Education), University of Victoria

Lauren Jerke
Theatre as Research
International community development and the arts in the School of Public Administration

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FIELD SITE VISITS

Victoria Foundation

The mentors began their tour of Victoria's Community Based Research site visits at one of the sponsors of the program, the Victoria Foundation. Since 1936, the Victoria Foundation has been managing charitable gifts to create permanent, income-earning funds that support hundreds of charities each year. The mentors discussed intersection of the UN Sustainability Goals and the use of Community Based Research and its benefits and pitfalls with Executive Director, Sandra Richardson, and Director of Strategic Initiatives, Carol Hall.

PEERS Victoria Resource Society

Peers Victoria is an innovative, multi-service grassroots agency that was established by, with, and for sex workers in 1995. Through direct service delivery and community partnerships, Peers provides an array of outreach and drop-in harm reduction and support services alongside education and employment training for current and former sex workers. Speaking with staff and Executive Director, Rachel Phillips, was incredibly informative for the mentors to understand the extend CBR has helped their programs.

Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness

The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness provides up to date information on the various homeless-serving resources available in the Capital Regional District from helping unsheltered homelessness, emergency sheltered homelessness, provisionally housed, at risk of homelessness, and youth homelessness. Their research in CRB is unparalleled and set a bar of excellence for use of real-time data collection.

Victoria Native Friendship Centre

VNFC, a sponsor of the program, provides services to an estimated 20,000 Aboriginal people living off reserve in the greater Victoria area; as well as the 5,000 residents from the First Nations communities in the southern Vancouver Island region. The mentors took an extensive tour of the VNFC with Executive Director, Ron Rice, to admire the VNFC services and were honoured to partake in a Spirit Stone creation activity. VNFC catered a delicious lunch from their hot meal program.

A panel discussion with all site visit representatives to further discuss complexities and benefits of CBR completed the day.
The mentors put CBR into practice when they ran a community World Cafe Event downtown Victoria with over 50 people in attendance to discuss how Community Based Research can be used to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Thank you to our sponsors Victoria Foundation and UVIC.
WEEK TWO:

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
SURREY

Between October 21st - 26th, 2018 SFU’s Surrey campus hosted the cohort of 12 community educators as part of the Knowledge For Change Mentorship Training Program’s (MTP) residency. The training included place-based site visits to community groups located in the vicinity of the SFU Surrey campus. These included a tour of temporary modular housing for homeless people (Lookout Society), Fraser Health and a meeting with staff from the City of Surrey. The cohort also met with SFU president Andrew Petter and VP Academic Peter Keller. The week ended with a home-cooked meal provided by SFU Surrey campus Administration staff.

"The K4C learners were very impressive. We sat in on some of their proposal presentations (as part of their training, they are required to complete a community-based research project) and my sense is the MTP is rigorous, well-rooted in CBR principles, and provides practical and value-added learning for participants. Budd and Rajesh are exceptional facilitators."

Stephen Dooley | Executive Director
Surrey Campus
RUTH MOJEED
Victoria, BC, Canada

“My MTP experience was a paradigm-shifting one. For the first time as a newcomer to Canada, I had real exposure to Indigenous learning methods, and gaining better understanding of the experiences of Indigenous people. The best part of my learning journey was connecting with the global consortium of researchers and practitioners during the residency at the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University. It was hands-on learning and training on community engagement and qualitative research.”

DARSHAN SINGH
Universiti Sains Malaysia, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia

"After completing the MTP program, I realized the uniqueness of CBPR in connecting different people with common interests who wish to co-learn, co-design and co-lead community transformation initiatives."

ALEJANDRO CAMPOS GARCIA
Havana, Cuba | York University, ON, Canada

"The MTP has given me the opportunity to learn new ways of thinking about myself as a researcher and as a promoter of social change. The course, similarly, has given me elements to think about what should be defined as knowledge and the ways to mobilize it."
MINALI BANERJEE

“The more I experienced, the better I learnt.”

SEBASTIAN SILVA
Salt Spring Island, BC, Canada

"It was terrific to be involved in this course with individuals who are passionate about research and co-creating knowledge, as well as honouring all voices including Indigenous perspectives. The course materials and instructors were superb and the course materials are a real treasure trove of information. The residency exposed me to new research methods and a wonderful group of mentors from our Salish Sea Hub and from around the world. I’m truly grateful for the experience.”

ASYIRAH RAHIM
Universiti Sains Malaysia, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia

"MTP 2018 has been a WHALE of knowledge, exploring new research territories, great friends and charting exciting path ahead."

ANSHUMAN KAROL
Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), New Delhi, India

"MTP helps me in bridging the gap between theory and practice through effective community based participatory research tools and methods."
WALTER LEPORE
University of Victoria, BC, Canada

"The MTP was a great opportunity for me to complement my theoretical and conceptual knowledge of community-based research with an experiential learning opportunity and field visits that allow me to have a firsthand experience of how CBR can transform meaningfully the life of people in need."

MUZAIMI MUSTAPHA
Universiti Sains Malaysia, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia

"The most exciting highlight to the course without a doubt was the two-week face-to-face residency where CBPR learning and engagement took place experientially in Victoria and Vancouver. Facilitators from academics and practitioners from various art-based fields and community champions had expanded my views on scheme of things from different lenses and perspectives, especially for a physician neuroscientist like me. The knowledge democracy is truly an impactful thing, and as an academic, I am very fortunate having been involved in this learning curve. Lastly, I sincerely hope that we had established a unique MTP friendship that shall grow stronger, in warmth, respect and love, into the future."

REETA VENUGOPAL
Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India (State University)

"An extremely helpful and informative course! Study materials were well organized and the instructors were extremely professional and pleasant to learn from. Moreover, the MTP was fun! The success of the program is attributed to Dr. Budd and Dr. Tandon".
Crystal Tremblay
University of Victoria, BC, Canada

"The MTP was an incredible experience that helped build a stronger foundation in my knowledge and understanding of CBPAR. The modules are set up to build capacity and peer-learning in the various critical components of CBPAR including ethics, impact, power, reflexivity, place and more. The F2F residency was very powerful and effective in its delivery and content, having global leaders. Budd and Rajesh leads us through several experiential workshops and site visits. It is rare to have intensive learning opportunities such as this and to build confidence in teaching and facilitating CBPAR is a gift. I am grateful to have had this opportunity to learn alongside delegates from Malaysia, India, Cuba and Canada, bringing international perspectives and new ideas on knowledge co-creation and creative engagement."

Tanya Clarmont
Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Victoria, BC Canada

"The residency also opened my eyes to a more global perspective of how my work can be impactful. I had not considered how my work in Indigenous Friendship Centres impacted, or didn’t, the outside world but I see now that there is knowledge to share with the world about what we are doing in Friendship Centres and knowledge to harvest from what others are doing around the world. This was a huge perspective shift for me.

CBPR makes so much sense to me as a community member and I want to be part of the shift that moves knowledge out of the hands of the academic elite and into the hands of all community members, especially Indigenous peoples. I feel inspired to support the development of the Salish Sea Hub and help this important instrument come to fruition and begin impacting our immediate community."
FIELD STUDY PROJECTS
Community Based Research Studies

Sebastian Silva & Walter Lepore
Xwaaqw’um Cultural/Ecological Plan: worked with the Stqeeeye’ society on Salt Spring Island to help plan and facilitate a gathering of Quw’utsun Elders, Knowledge Keepers and other community members to identify cultural and ecological restoration priorities for Xwaaqw’um (Burgoyne Bay, Salt Spring Island).

Crystal Tremblay
Enhancing Community Resilience: Youth engagement in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (ECR). The overarching focus of this project is to engage youth (ages 14-24) in research designed to explore youth engagement in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Community Resilience (CR). The goal is to increase the disaster resilience and climate change adaptive capacity of youth and communities through enhanced youth engagement and social innovation. As part of the Community-based approach, five youth were trained as co-researchers to help design and facilitate the workshops and conduct interviews.

Ruth Mojeed
Gender equity within the Greater Victoria’s tech sector. The goal is to get women to share their experiences of working in male-dominated fields and helping stakeholders understand the need for inclusiveness for minority groups.
Tanya Clarmont

Victoria Urban Reconciliation Dialogue – Reconciliation is a huge conversation with many facets. Through this field study I will assist the community of Victoria, inclusive of Indigenous and non-Indigenous citizens, to begin to conceptualize what Reconciliation means for those living in the Victoria area.

Muzaimi Mustapha

‘Neuroscience of learning for a School-based neuroscience extracurricular club module in Malaysia’. The study builds from an existing community partner, a School-based neuroscience club that was established from our University-Community engagement BrainBee@USM project (involving club teachers and school pupils aged 10 to 12 years old). We seek to co-construct an extracurricular activity module for their neuroscience club that incorporates elements of fun learning from their perspectives with the current neuroscience evidence on how the human brain learns and can be disseminated for use in 30 other similar neuroscience clubs in Malaysia.

Asyirah Rahim

FIELD STUDY PROJECTS
Community Based Research Studies

Darshan Singh
Non-custodial Detention of Illicit Drug Users: A Policy Change. This prospective CBPR community-led engagement program aims to revamp the archaic drug policy in Malaysia.

Anshuman Karol
*From unheard to heard – Voices that matter in City’s Smartness:* Facilitate learning of slum improvement committee federation to effectively engage with different stakeholders and demand services with strong set of data generated through community based participatory research.

Reeta Venugopal
Role of youth in Prevention of Sexual Harassment. The objective of the project is to understand the role of youth and their voice in gender issue specially in prevention of Sexual Harassment in the work place.

Minali Banerjee
Sustainable Livelihood of small Entrepreneurs: A case study of Bagru town of Rajasthan, India

Alejandro Campos Garcia
Mapping Out a Marginalized Afrodescendant Community in Havana Urban Setting. This project focuses on establishing the foundations for future CBPR project with a community located in a marginalized neighbourhood in the City of Havana.
Thank you to Our Sponsors

Thank you to our Cohort II Sponsors:

Victoria Foundation  
The Moose Hide Campaign  
Victoria Native Friendship Centre  
Ford Foundation  
Universiti Sains Malaysia  
Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India  
Manipal University Jaipur (India)  
UVIC Faculty of Social Sciences  
UVIC Division of Continuing Studies  
Office of the Vice President - Research UVIC  
Simon Fraser University - Surrey Campus

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