The Participatory Research Newsletter

This monthly newsletter aims to highlight the participatory research initiatives emerging from Participatory Research @ McGill (PRAM), and Centro de Investigación de Enfermedades Tropicales (CIET), as well as share new opportunities for projects, courses, funding, and more!

Note, the CIET-PRAM Newsletter is offered in the following languages:

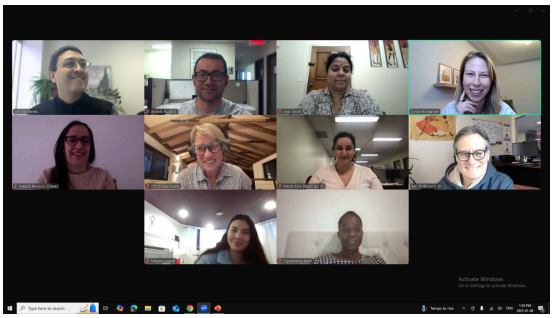
Français | Español

A Month in Review

An ever busy team, below are a few updates from the CIET-PRAM network.

Monthly Meeting

Sexual and gender-based violence towards South Sudanese refugees in Uganda: A mixed methods study



The monthly CIET-PRAM meeting is an opportunity to share project updates, present research protocols, and more.

This month, PhD candidate, Sonia Michaelsen, held a mock doctoral presentation in preparation for her thesis defence at Université de Montréal. Her research examines factors contributing to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) among South Sudanese refugees in Uganda, comparing experiences in camps and urban slums. Using a mixed-methods approach, she gathered participants' perspectives through fuzzy cognitive mapping (FCM) and conducted a survey to assess the prevalence of violence and its associated factors.

Best wishes to Sonia on this next step in her academic journey!

Project Update

Exploring teen healthcare access

In collaboration with the Goldman Herzl Family Practice Centre (Jewish General Hospital) and with funding from the McGill Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN), we're pleased to share progress on our participatory project exploring teens' perspectives on mental and physical health services.

Through pre- and post-surveys and fuzzy cognitive mapping (FCM), the teens have provided valuable insights into their healthcare experiences.

McGill Primary Care Practice Based Research Network
Réseau de Recherche Axée sur les Pratiques de Première Ligne de McGill

A key part of the project was a training session where nine volunteers learned how to conduct FCM and contributed to data collection. Some of these volunteers, including students planning to use FCM in their own research, gained hands-on experience that will support their future work. With 11 fuzzy cognitive now gathered from teens, we are now preparing for the next phase: *deliberative dialogues* with healthcare providers to identify strategies for improving teen healthcare access.

And as a fun aside, during one of our sessions, we had an unexpected fire drill! It certainly added some extra excitement to the day - check out the picture for a glimpse of the action (see above).

Assessing cognitive function in different contexts

The Botswana arm of the pilot of the APROACH (Authentic Participatory Research for Older Adult Cognitive Health) trial is well underway, and we are learning a lot! A key instrument for assessing cognitive function in the study is the Frontal Assessment Battery (FAB). The Botswana team has worked with older people in rural communities to adapt the FAB, originally developed in Canada, for the Botswana context. This goes well beyond translating into the local language.

One section in the FAB asks the participant how certain objects “are alike”, for example an orange and a banana are “both fruits”. The correct answer for “a table and a chair” is “furniture”. But there is no collective word for furniture in Setswana. We replaced “table and chair” with “axe and hoe” (farming tools) and “tulip, rose and daisy” with the names of three local trees. Many elderly people in Botswana had little schooling in their youth and they struggle with the FAB item requiring them to say as many words as they can beginning with the letter “s” (replaced with “beginning with the sound SSSS”).

We believe we now have a reasonable version of the FAB for Botswana, allowing us to use it to follow changes over time. But we would not be comfortable comparing Botswana FAB scores with those from somewhere like Canada.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL WEBINAR

"I am a changed person": Measuring the transformative impact of participatory visual methodologies

Join Drs Anne Cockcroft, Neil Andersson, and a wonderful panel to learn more about studying the impact of cellphilms and other participatory methodologies in work with youth in community research.

Date: Wednesday, 26 February, 2025
Time: 10h00-12h00 EST
Where: Online (*Zoom* link provided upon registration)

Register for the webinar here!

Megan Légaré: New Doctoral Student

Join us in welcoming Megan Légaré to the PRAM team! Megan will be completing her doctoral studies under the supervision of Dr Neil Andersson within the Family Medicine Department at McGill University.

Megan is a Kanien'kehá:ka student, sister, auntie, and researcher, is dedicated to empowering and centering Indigenous youth voices. She has collaborated on multiple youth-led reconciliation projects, and her master's thesis explored Indigenous youth's relationship to cultural continuity and generativity. Her doctoral research will focus on Inuit youth's vision of health and the role of cultural safety and continuity in shaping it.

New Podcast Series: Participation Science Dialogues

We are thrilled to announce the launch of Participation Science Dialogues, a new podcast series dedicated to sharing the voices, experiences, and insights of participatory research. Whether you are a researcher, practitioner, or community member, this podcast invites you to dive into thought-provoking conversations.

Our first episode, "Ethics in Participatory Research", explores the complexities of ethical considerations when collaborating with communities in research.

Listen to Episode 1 now!

Latest Publications

Highlighted below are some of the most recent publications from the industrious CIET-PRAM team:

Community Views of Determinants of Men's Wellbeing in Guatemala: A Study Using Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping

Authors: Katherine W. Pizarro, Anne M. Chomat, Diego P. Quieju, Bernardo Y. López, Iván Sarmiento, Nicholas LeBel, Chloe Mancini, Neil Andersson & Anne Cockcroft

Visit our website for more publications from the CIET-PRAM team

Departmental Newsletters

McGill | Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences | Department of Family Medicine

Ask 5 Podcast

The Institute of Health Sciences Education and the Office of Ed-TECH in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences are excited to share their next episode from their ongoing podcast series, Ask 5! The episode is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, Audible,

Podbean, and iheartradio and a video version of the podcast is available on YouTube.

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