

Education

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

2022

Honours Bachelor of Science with High Distinction

- Psychology (specialist), biology (minor)

Research Experience

BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL INVESTIGATIONS OF GENDER LAB AND CAMH

Mississauga, ON

Scoping review of neuroimaging studies of transgender youths and adults

May 2021 – Dec 2021

Supervisors: Prof. Doug VanderLaan (U of T) and Rowen Kae Nyman (CAMH)

- Collaborated with the BIG Lab (U of T) and the Center For Addiction and Mental Health on a scoping review of neuroimaging studies of transgender youths and adults, focusing on interactions between brain development, gender, and exogenous/endogenous hormones.
- Primarily screened abstracts, completed full text reviews, extracted and coded data, and summarized findings.
- Presented findings on masculinizing hormone therapy, androgens and empathy at a student research conference.
- Completed training in MRI techniques, neuroscience, gender, and LGBTQ+ research and literature reviews.

Human Brain Structure Analysis using MRI

Jan 2022 – Apr 2022

Supervisors: Prof. Doug VanderLaan (U of T), Dr. Malvina Skorska (CAMH), Lindsey Thurston (U of T)

- Developed skills in writing bash script (Linux OS), quality checking images
- T1w image processing with bpipe, FSL, beting, FAST (segmentation)
 - Measuring cortical thickness, volume, surface area (CIVET, Free Surfer)
- DTI image preprocessing, DTIfit, TBSS data analysis

FOR THE RECORD

Toronto, ON

Youth Peer Researcher

Sept 2021 – Apr 2022

Supervisors: Prof. Sarah Flicker (York U), Jessica Fields (U of T)

- Field testing digital data collection methods and providing constructive feedback
- Recruiting participants from New York City, Toronto, and Melbourne through local organizations and social media
- Obtaining informed consent, enrolling participants, responding to participant inquiries, reporting data collection statistics, scheduling interviews, organizing meetings and agendas, managing 600+ participant cases with a high degree of confidentiality.
- Conducted semi-structured Interviews with racialized and 2SLGBTQ+ youth about their intersectional identities, sexual risk taking, mental health and unmet needs during the pandemic.
- Administered screening questionnaires, obtained consent, assisted with grant proposals, proofread manuscripts, administering participant honoraria
- Entered data, conducted qualitative thematic analysis, and coded transcripts and questionnaire responses accurately.

THE MONKS LAB

Mississauga, ON

Scoping review of neuroimaging studies of transgender youths and adults

Jan 2022 – May 2022

Supervisors: Prof. Ashley Monks (U of T) and Thanh Phung

- Stimulated the clitoris of female mice, performing euthanasia, and extracting brains.
- Perfused and sliced brains with a cryostat, stained slices with immune reactions, and mounting slices.
- Identified brain ROIs under a light microscope, assessed the density of Fos-immunoreactive cells and determined statistically significant differences between treatment groups with SPSS.

JULIA FERGUSON

hello@jules-ferguson.com

Toronto, ON

587-228-5046

International Youth Advisory Board Member

Jun 2021 – Jun 2022

- Collaborating with an interdisciplinary research partnership connecting the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto with other institutions in Mexico, the UK, and the US.
- Developing community connections between queer youths across the globe and LGBTQ+ researchers through discussions and sharing literature with IYAB members and project supervisors.
- Providing input on research methods and community outreach programs focused on queer youths and the use of information and communication technologies.

Community Experience

CANVAS PROGRAMS

Toronto, ON

Operations and Development Coordinator

Jan 2024 – Present

- Maintain grant tracking system, reviewing applications, and identifying grant opportunities
- Supporting fundraising initiatives, social media and newsletter campaigns, event planning, community outreach and fee for service sale of programs.
- Selling merchandise advocating for consent and queer inclusion while representing the organization and building brand recognition.

Office Administrative Coordinator

March 2023 – Jan 2024

- Supporting with recruitment, hiring, onboarding, and offboarding.
- Coordinating office moves and office space maintenance.
- Coordinating material creation, travel logistics, staffing and scheduling for workshops.

Workshop Facilitator

Nov 2022 – Present

- Facilitated empathy-based programs on 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion, and consent with middle and high school students, youth-serving adults, workplaces, caregivers and community groups both in-person and virtually.
- Programed and facilitated a program for adults with autism and/or learning disabilities to discuss consent and healthy boundaries in partnership with the Geneva Centre for Autism.
- Providing participants with trauma informed support when sharing experiences of intimate partner violence, homophobia and transphobia with during and after workshops.

THE HEALTH EQUITY PROJECT

Toronto, ON

Co-Founder and Director

June 2021 – Present

- Reviewing peer reviewed articles, utilizing knowledge translation to condense articles into accessible summaries and infographics for the public. Editing the work of other team members and providing constructive feedback.
 - Articles of choice emphasized shortcomings in sexual health care and barriers faced by queer communities, women, and sexual violence survivors.
- Successfully wrote a project proposal and received funding from the U of T Student Engagement Award.
- Hiring team members to write articles based on peer-reviewed research on healthcare inequities.
- Website design and content creation for social media. Building a community online of over 2500 members that are dedicated to healthcare equity. Communicating with community members through emails and direct messages.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MISSISSAUGA SEXUAL EDUCATION CENTER

Mississauga, ON

Advertising Coordinator

May 2021 – Present

- Creating content for social media and websites. Designing and distributing posters for upcoming events and communicating with students through emails and direct messages.
- Creating posters, social media and campaign content for upcoming events and sexual health resources.
- Collaborating with volunteers and other executives in the office and during workshops and events.
- Developing and facilitating trauma-informed peer support group programming for survivors of sexual violence.
- Creating an accessible resource directory for sexual health, domestic violence, and abortion resources in the GTA.
- Leading social media initiatives and creating educational content for upcoming events and sexual health resources.

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- Developing a resource directory for sexual health and abortion resources in the greater Toronto area.
- Creating posters, social media and campaign content for upcoming events and sexual health resources.

Peer Support Volunteer

Sept 2019 – May 2022

- Providing trauma-informed support to students regarding sexual violence, healthcare, and sexual and gender identity.
- Supporting the legal, social and healthcare needs of sexual and gender-based violence survivors through informal counselling and assisting while navigating health and legal institutions at the university.
- Providing support and guidance to students regarding sexual assault, healthcare, and sexual and gender identity.
- Work collaboratively with students, faculty, staff, and community members to support survivors of sexual violence.

ACTION CANADA FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Ottawa, ON

Access Line Navigator

May 2021 – Jan 2024

- Picking up, packaging, and delivering orders for contraception, pregnancy tests, menstrual products, and other sexual and reproductive health necessities.
- Coordinating with other volunteers and the head of SHR Hubs to ensure safe and equal access to services.
- Collaborating with key volunteers to establish a more streamlined and efficient distribution system.

SEXUAL HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS HUBS

Toronto, ON

Member of the Board of Directory

Jan 2024 – Present

- Participating in key decision making, providing advice for funding, non -profit management and financial decisions.

Delivery Partner

May 2021 – April 2022

- Picking up, packaging, and delivering orders for contraception, pregnancy tests, menstrual products, and other sexual and reproductive health necessities.
- Coordinating with other volunteers and the head of SHR Hubs to ensure safe and equal access to services.
- Collaborating with key volunteers to establish a more streamlined and efficient distribution system.

Honours & Awards

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AWARD

University of Toronto Global

Toronto, ON

2021

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO DEAN'S LIST SCHOLAR

University of Toronto

Toronto, ON

2020-2021

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ENTRANCE AWARD

University of Toronto

Mississauga, ON

2018