# Faculty Members

Faculty in the School of Social Work hold a diverse array of research and teaching interests. The brief faculty profiles below provide a snapshot of these areas of expertise. More information is provided on individual faculty pages.

Dr. Sulaimon Giwa

###### Interim Dean

###### 

###### Elected College Member, Royal Society of Canada

Tel: (709) 864-7940 Rm: J-2019  
Email: sgiwa@mun.ca / deansocialwork@mun.ca

Research interests: forensic social work; critical race and anti-Black racism; race and sexuality; LGBTQ+ migration, settlement, and integration; intersectional stigma and human rights; minority stress and coping; queer of colour critique; critical analysis of whiteness; critical social work theories and pedagogy; and the criminal justice system (police and corrections). For more detailed information see [Dr. Giwa's faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-sulaimon-abiodun-olawale-giwa/).

Vacant

###### Associate Dean, Graduate Programs and Research

Dr. Paul Issahaku

###### Acting Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs

Tel: (709) 864-8688 Rm: J3019  
Email: pissahaku@mun.ca

Research interests: domestic violence and intimate partner violence; children, youth & family services; social policy processes; ageing and older persons; community development; and program evaluation. For more detailed information see [Dr. Issahaku's faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-paul-issahaku/).

Dr. Donna Hardy Cox

###### Full Professor

###### Associate VP (Academic) and Dean of Students

Tel: (709) 864-2985   
Email: avpas@mun.ca

Research interests: social work education; interprofessional education; service delivery systems in higher education; and community capacity building, with an emphasis on youth. For more detailed information see [Dr. Hardy Cox's faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/student-services/about/biography/).

Dr. Bren LeFrancois

###### Full Professor

###### University Research Professor

Tel: (709) 864-2555 Rm: J-3018  
Email: blefrancois@mun.ca

Research interests: the intersections between the sociology of childhood, critical childhood studies and Mad Studies; sanism, queerness and subversion; transdisciplinairty and in/disciplinarity; (mad) social movements, social activism and (mad) social anarchist practices; autoethnography, critical ethnography and participarty research; critical disability studies; and, critical whiteness studies. For more detailed information see [Dr. LeFrancois' faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-brenda-lefrancois/).

Dr. Delores Mullings

###### Full Professor

###### Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)

Tel: (709) 864-2181   
Email: dmullings@mun.ca / viceprovostedi@mun.ca

Research interests: decolonizing post-secondary education; mothering and parenting; mental health and wellness in the Black church; racialized LGBTQ+; Black and racialized elders; settlement and integration in small urban centres, rural and remote areas; employment discrimination; and human rights policy. For more detailed information see [Dr. Mullings' faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-delores-v-mullings/).

Dr. Paul Banahene Adjei

###### Associate Professor

###### Interim Associate VP (Indigenous Research)

Tel: (709) 864-4512 Rm: J-2003  
Email: pbanahene@mun.ca

Research interests: social justice education; Black parenting experiences; social work theories; social work interviewing skills; Indigenous African philosophies and their pedagogical possibilities; spirituality as self-care; integration and resettlement experiences of people of African descents; and violence and non-violence education. For more detailed information please see [Dr. Adjei's faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-paul-banahene-adjei/).

Dr. Catherine de Boer

###### Associate Professor

Tel: (709) 864-2554 Rm: J-3001  
Email: cdeboer@mun.ca

Research interests: identity development and transformation; disengagement studies; social work practice (specifically therapeutic relationships and counselling); and narrative studies, including narrative theory, analysis and therapy. For more detailed information see [Dr. de Boer's faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-catherine-de-boer/).

Dr. Stephen Ellenbogen

###### Associate Professor

Tel: (709) 864-2559 Rm: J-3020  
Email: sellenbogen@mun.ca

Research interests: child welfare; social work education; public engagement social perceptions; human development, behavioural & emotional problems; gambling; and life course transitions. For more detailed information see [Dr. Ellenbogen's faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-stephen-ellenbogen/).

Dr. Christopher Smith

###### Associate Professor

Tel: (709) 864-7701 Rm: J-2009  
Email: csmith13@mun.ca

Research interests: mental health and addiction; substance use and harm reduction; risk behavior among people who inject drugs; foregounding the expertise and experiences of People who Use Drugs; Critical Drug Studies; and substance use education in Social Work curriculum across Canada. For more detailed information see [Dr. Smith's faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-christopher-b-r-smith/).

Dr. Gail Wideman

###### Associate Professor

Tel: (709) 864-8161 Rm: J-4011  
Email: gwideman@mun.ca

Research interests: gerontology; aging in rural places; palliative care in rural communities; social work with military families; and community engaged scholarship and research. For more detailed information see [Dr. Wideman's faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-gail-wideman/).

Dr. Fred Andersen

###### Assistant Professor

Tel: (709) 864-8151 Rm: J-2009  
Email: fandersen@mun.ca

Research interests: Indigenous community capacity building; Indigenous ways of knowing, Indigenous knowledge translation and mobilization; action outcome co-creation of community-based, community-driven research with, for, and by Indigenous communities; promoting Indigenous communities’ ways of knowing and healing; anti-colonial social work practice, including its relevance for Indigenous communities; promotion of equitable partnerships and honouring of traditional knowledge; Indigenous circle pedagogy; and team and group work. For more information see [Dr. Andersen's faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/fred-andersen/).

Ami Goulden

###### Assistant Professor

Tel: (709) 864-8147 Rm: J-4004  
Email: agoulden@mun.ca

Research interests: reproductive health and justice among disabled populations; sex-positive social work education and practice; sexual well-being among disabled people; healthcare decision-making among youth populations; young parenting in the child welfare system; universal design for social work education and practice; and service user and carer involvement in social work education. For more detailed information see [Professor Goulden's faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/ami-goulden/).

Dr. Julia Janes

###### Assistant Professor

Tel: (709) 864-8583 Rm: J-3021  
Email: jjanes@mun.ca

Research interests: community-based participatory research; arts-informed, collaborative approaches to social work; critical gerontology; critical race, whiteness, post structural and anti-colonial theories; decolonizing epistemologies and methodologies; intersections between environmental and social justice; ableism/sanism; harm reduction; and community practice. For more detailed information see [Dr. Janes' faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-julia-janes/).

Dr. Kathy de Jong

###### Assistant Professor

Tel: (709) 864-4716 Rm: J-3022  
Email: kdejong@mun.ca

Research interests: critical mental health service delivery to 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and their providers; the lived experience of youth service users and how they have experienced the embedded heteronormativity in the service system; understanding how service providers experience the same and what they do to try and mitigate its impact; creating a safer and more inclusive mental health service delivery system for all children, youth and their families regardless of gender and sexual expression/identification. For more information see [Dr. de Jong's faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-kathy-de-jong/).

Dr. Sheri McConnell

###### Assistant Professor

Tel: (709) 864-8381 Rm: J-4012  
Email: smcconne@mun.ca

Research interests: field and social work education; decolonization, reconciliation, and Indigenization; gender and sexual diversity; and preventing, disclosing, and ending violence and abuse. For more information see [Dr. McConnell's faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-sheri-m-mcconnell/).

Dr. Laura Pacheco

###### Assistant Professor

Tel: (709) 864-2562 Rm: J-3002  
Email: lpacheco@mun.ca

Research interests: reproductive justice and mothering with a disability: intersection of parenting with an intellectual disability and the child welfare system; structural and intimate partner violence against women with disabilities; intersecting identities and social justice; aging and neurodiversity; critically reflective practice and community engagement; narrative inquiry; critical discourse analysis; participatory approaches to research; and roles of professionals, accessibility of services and the critical examination of professionals’ power and privilege within the health and social service system. For more detailed information see [Dr. Pacheco's faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-laura-pacheco/).

Janice Parsons

###### Assistant Professor

Tel: (709) 864-8150 Rm: J-4005  
Email: jparsons@mun.ca

Research interests: marginalization; oppression; poverty; social class; gender; identity; social inclusion; lone mothers; welfare; social work education; and social work supervision and research ethics. Her work employs anti-oppression, feminist, and postmodern perspectives and qualitative research designs. For more detailed information see [Professor Parson's faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/janice-parsons/).

Dr. Sobia Shaikh

###### Assistant Professor

Tel: (709) 864-7516 Rm: J-4010  
Email: sshaikh@mun.ca

Research interests: connections among social justice practice, organizational and community change and social policy from the standpoint of activists and social workers; critical social work; social policy; social justice praxis; critical research; community engagement; organizational change; social service administration; antiracism; advocacy and activism; intersectionality; environmental and social justice; families; disability; feminist theory; global migration; diaspora; decolonizing and anti-colonial knowledge production; professional ethics; and sociology of professional knowledge. For more detailed information see [Dr. Shaikh's faculty page](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-sobia-shaikh/).

Honorary Research Professor

###### [Dr. Shelly Birnie-Lefcovitch](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-shelly-birnie-lefcovitch/)

Professor Emeritus

###### [Dr. Ken Barter](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-ken-barter/)

###### [Dr. Dennis Kimberle](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-dennis-kimberley/)y

###### [Dr. Paul Sachdev](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/faculty/dr-paul-sachdev/)

# Staff

Staff at the School of Social Work bring a variety of experience and expertise to their jobs.

###### [Gina Billard](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/staff/gina-billard/)

Senior Administrative Officer  
Tel: (709) 864-8148 Rm: J-4015  
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###### [Tracey Bishop](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/staff/tracey-bishop/)

Secretary, Undergraduate Programs, Student Services & BSW/MSW Field  
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Email: tbishop@mun.ca

###### [Nikki Browne](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/staff/nicole-nikki-browne/)

Student Liason Officer  
Tel: (709) 864-8378 Rm: J-2017  
Email: nbrowne@mun.ca

###### [Jessica Canning](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/staff/jessica-canning/)

Academic Program Assistant, Graduate Programs  
Tel: (709) 864-4859 Rm: J-2018  
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###### [Ashley Curnew](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/staff/ashley-curnew/)

Graduate Student Services & Continuing Education Coordinator  
Tel: (709) 864-2557 Rm: J-2002  
Email: ahcurnew@mun.ca

###### [Danielle Devereaux](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/staff/danielle-devereaux/)

Communications Advisor  
Tel: (709) 864-8162 Rm: J-4013  
Email: devereaux@mun.ca

###### [Stephanie Hynes](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/staff/stephanie-hynes/)

Intermediate Secretary to the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs, Research & Undergraduate Programs  
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###### [Kim Kelly](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/staff/kim-kelly-rsw/)

Undergraduate Student Services Coordinator  
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###### [Lisa Muise](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/staff/lisa-muise/)

Decanal Assistant  
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###### [Barb Walker](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/staff/barb-walker/)

Administrative Staff Specialist II  
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###### [Laura Woodford](https://www.mun.ca/socialwork/about-us/our-people/staff/laura-woodford/)

Communications Advisor  
On leave