

CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Annual report to Senate Committee on University Research
2014-15

Interdisciplinary (Type II) Research Centre
Report prepared by Helen Fallding, Manager

MISSION STATEMENT

The Centre for Human Rights Research brings together people and organizations – both within and outside the University of Manitoba – to enhance interdisciplinary and collaborative research capacity, create richer training opportunities for students, and facilitate the fusion of research-driven knowledge, public policy and intellectual debate on issues related to human rights and social justice. The centre aims to facilitate research that is both academically rigorous and accessible to the public.

Objectives and functions: remain the same as when the centre was established in 2012.

DIRECTOR: Prof. Karen Busby



Prof. Karen Busby's research interests include laws connected to sex, sexuality, and violence and on the human right to safe drinking water. Her current research is on human rights laws affecting lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and trans-identified (LGBT) people; surrogacy contracts; religious freedom and child protection laws. She is also the principal investigator on a \$200,000 partnership development grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada on the right to clean water in First Nations.

Busby was an active participant in litigation and law reform efforts on sexual assault, legal recognition of same-sex relationships and challenges to laws on bawdy houses/indecency, age of consent and gender identity. She has worked on numerous research projects on gendered violence, including sexual assault, girls involved in prostitution, sexual expression, and the implementation of civil domestic violence legislation. Prof. Busby appeared as counsel in the Supreme Court of Canada in the Little Sisters case about the discriminatory treatment of LGBT bookstores by Canada Customs. She teaches constitutional law, administrative law, and gender and the law.

Busby was a member the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) national legal committee from 1992-1997 and she remains on the LEAF Assisted Human Reproduction sub-committee and sexual assault case sub-committees. She also served on the board of Egale Canada (2003-08), a national organization representing LGBT folks. Prof. Busby has been on the review panel established under Manitoba's Vulnerable Persons Living with Mental Disabilities Act since 2001. She served on the board of governors of the Winnipeg Art Gallery from 2000-2009.

Prof. Busby has received numerous awards recognizing her human rights work, including a YWCA Women of Distinction award, and awards from the Manitoba and Canadian bar associations. She was inducted in 2011 into the Q (Queer) Hall of Fame.

PERSONNEL involved in work related to CHRR this year:

Faculty members¹

65 UM and 10 other

- 5 [small grant recipients](#)
- 10 on [advisory board](#)
- 7 other UM profs and 3 from other universities working on director's SSHRC partnership development grant
- 26 other UM profs and 7 from other universities involved in NSERC H2O project
- 8 more working on Master of Human Rights proposal
- 5 other UM profs are contributors to the human rights museum book
- 3 other UM faculty developed a research workshop on archives access
- one co-organized events

Postdoctoral fellows

2

Ph.D. students

8 UM and one other

- 4 UM and one from another university through H2O program
- 2 through small grants
- one website/social media assistant
- one through director's partnership development grant

Master's students

14 UM and 2 other

- 6 UM and one from another university through H2O program
- 4 at UM and one at another university through partnership development grant
- one to podcast/summarize seminar series
- one to co-ordinate Speakers Bureau
- one through small grant
- director on one thesis committee

Law students

19

- 2 summer research assistants
- one year-round part-time for Speakers Bureau
 - plus 10 occasional presenters
- 4 short-term research assistants
- 2 through small grant

Undergraduate students

13 UM and one other

- 4 through H2O program
- 2 UM and one at another university on small grant projects
- 7 through partnership development grant

¹ The range of involvement varies widely, with major engagement by Busby (50% of her workload), Law's Craft (18%), Agriculture's Farenhorst (13%), and Arts professors Woolford (10%), Starzyk (8%), Desmarais and Muller. Note that the professors listed above as involved with CHRR this year are not all formal members and some formal members were not active this year.

Technical support 2

- through Robson Hall

Administrative, Secretarial 3

- manager (full-time)
- H2O project co-ordinator (full-time)
- office assistant (20 hours/week)

Community partners

- Active partners include Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Academic publications

Karen Busby, Adam Muller and Andrew Woolford, eds., [*The Idea of a Human Rights Museum*](#) (University of Manitoba Press, 2015).

Shawna Ferris and Amy Lebovitch, [*Street Sex Work and Canadian Cities: Resisting a Dangerous Order*](#) (University of Alberta Press, 2015)

Andrew Woolford, Jeff Benvenuto and Alexander Hinton, eds., [*Colonial Genocide in Indigenous North America*](#) (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2014).



Karen Busby, “Sex Was in the Air:’ Pernicious Myths and Other Problems with Sexual Violence Prosecutions” in [*Locating Law: Race/Class/Gender/Sexuality Connections*](#), 3rd edition, ed. Elizabeth Comack (Halifax and Winnipeg: Fernwood Publishing, 2014).

Karen Busby and Delaney Vun, “Revisiting the Handmaid’s Tale: Feminist Theory Meets Empirical Research on Surrogate Mothers,” reprinted in [*Persons and Property in Private Law*](#), 2nd edition, ed. Brett Dawson (Concord, Ont.: Captus Press, 2013).

Gary Raven, [*The Seven Teachings and More*](#) (Winnipeg: KIND Publishing, 2103).

Karen Busby, “Canada: Halalt First Nation,” in [*The Human Rights to Water and Sanitation in Courts Worldwide*](#), (WaterLex and WASH United, 2014)

Brenda Elias, Karen Busby and Pat Martens, “[*One little, too little*](#): Counting Canada’s Indigenous people for improved health reporting,” *Social Science & Medicine* 138 (2015): 179–186. (Refereed paper.)

Karen Busby, “On Democracy and Dialogue at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights,” *Journal of Parliamentary and Political Law* 9, 1 (2015): 147-152. (Refereed paper.)

Karen Busby and Susan Drummond, "[Editorial](#)," *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law/Revue Femmes et Droit* 25, 2 (2013): i-iv. (Refereed paper.)

Karen Busby, "[Of Surrogate Mother Born](#): Parentage Determinations in Canada and Elsewhere," *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law/Revue Femmes et Droit* 25, 2 (2013): 284-314. (Refereed paper.)

Karen Busby, "[Every Breath You Take](#): Erotic Asphyxiation, Vengeful Wives and Other Enduring Myths In Spousal Sexual Assault Prosecutions," *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law/Revue Femmes et Droit* 24, 2 (2012): 328-358. (Refereed paper.)

Karen Busby, "[Discussed, reformulated and enriched many times](#): The Supreme Court of Canada's Equality Jurisprudence," Canadian Bar Association conference proceedings (2014).

Karen Busby and Sara Mahboob, "[Influences on Young Muslim Women in Winnipeg](#): Preliminary Report on Key Informant Interviews" (2014).

Newspaper columns

Karen Busby, "[Prejudice in the court](#)," *Winnipeg Free Press*, 3 March 2015, A7.

Karen Busby, "[The limits of blasphemy](#)," *Winnipeg Free Press*, 26 January 2015, A7.

Aimée Craft, "We have nowhere safe to go: [Manitoba should support an indigenous-led inquiry into murdered and missing](#)," *Winnipeg Free Press*, 18 December 2014, A15.

Sarah Teetzel, "[Transgender athletes deserve support and respect](#)," *Winnipeg Free Press*, 17 December 2014, A9.

Karen Busby, "[Case shows the perils of being a woman](#)," *Winnipeg Free Press*, 22 November 2014, A17.

Karen Busby, "[The cool, not cool in BDSM activity](#)," *Winnipeg Free Press*, 6 November 2014, A11.

Sarah Teetzel, "[No to sex-tests of female Olympians](#)," *Winnipeg Free Press*, 6 February 2014, A10.

Karen Busby, "[Sex-trade workers: protect, don't arrest](#)," *Winnipeg Free Press*, 21 December 2013, A17.

Mary Shariff, "[Assisted suicide – what next?](#)" *Winnipeg Free Press*, 15 October 2013.

Karen Busby, "[First Nations water act doomed?](#)" *Winnipeg Free Press*, 26 June 2013, A9.

Karen Busby, "[Manitoba could follow B.C. on surrogacy issue](#)," *Winnipeg Free Press*, 9 May 2013, A15.

Creative works

[Cherishing Water, Claiming Health](#): *Water as a Holistic Health Right*, 2014. (30-minute video)

Directed by Dr. Warren Cariou

Edited by Andrew Eyer

Camera Operators: Mark Neufeld and Teddy Zegeye-Gebrehiwot



Jerome Cranston and Elise Ahrens-Townsend, [You Only Need Feet to Walk](#): *A Look Inside the Barefoot Teacher Training Program*, 2013. (short video)

Jerome Cranston and Elise Ahrens-Townsend, *The Brickfield Schools: The Nexus of Education and Child Labour*, 2013. (short video, featured at University Council for Educational Administration's 2014 film festival in Washington)

Jerome Cranston and Elise Ahrens-Townsend, *A Journey to a Santal School: A Way Forward for the Adavasi in India*, 2013. (short video)

DEGREES (past academic year)

Katelin Neufeld, MA, *The Role of Abstract Construals in Increasing Public Support for Addressing Local Injustice*, supervisors Danielle Gaucher (UW) and Katherine Starzyk.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES, 2014-15



- First annual [First Nation water rights research conference](#).
- [Between Keewatin and Tsilhqot'in](#) conference on treaty rights, with Prof. Aimée Craft.
- [Workshop](#) for national experts on privacy, access and copyright related to residential school records.



- Refining proposal for Master of Human Rights program, in collaboration with Dr. Annette Desmarais, Canada Research Chair in Human Rights, Social Justice and Food Sovereignty
- Networking meeting for human rights researchers from U of M and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.
- Critical Conversations [seminar series on truth and reconciliation](#) (plus more than 3,000 hits on the web page)
- [Student Speakers Bureau](#)
- Political Prisoners Names Project for Manitoba Opera production of Fidelio.
- Co-sponsored: [Rwandan genocide](#) commemoration, [expressive rights](#) event, student racism discussion and distinguished visitors Kimberley Prost ([UN ombudsperson](#)) and Doug White (treaty rights).

- At least 35 invited local, national and [international presentations](#) by faculty, staff and students about CHRR projects to a combined audience of more than 1,800.
- At least three conference posters on CHRR-related research.
- The director and other CHRR-supported researchers were quoted in or wrote 70 print and broadcast news stories about human rights issues, including the newspaper columns listed above. A few other examples:
 - [Genocide universal issue: survivor](#)
 - [Weak fertility laws put potential parents on shaky ground](#)
 - [First Nations issues: What will make Canadians care?](#)
- The CHRR website was used by 17,586 different people this year. Twenty [videos](#) of CHRR seminars or lectures are posted online.
- CHRR small grants have provided seed money for projects that eventually grew much larger, including a new summer institute for teachers on [Writing for Human Rights](#).

SOURCES OF FUNDING

External funds



- Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst, NSERC, [H2O program](#) for water and sanitation security in First Nations, \$1.65 million (2013-19)
- Prof. Karen Busby, SSHRC, the [Right to Clean Water in First Nations](#), \$200,000 (2013-16)
- Aimée Craft and Prof. Karen Busby, anonymous donor, Anishinaabe water law, \$9,800 (summers 2013 and 2014)

Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst



CHRR also supported these projects:

- Dr. Andrew Woolford, SSHRC, [Embodying Empathy](#), \$195,657 (2014-17)
- Dr. Andrew Woolford, SSHRC, International Association of [Genocide Scholars conference](#), \$25,000 (2014)
- Norway House Cree Nation, Health Canada, Environmental Contaminants Exposure through Source Water and traditional Foods, \$119,600



Endowment or trust income

- Robson Hall endowment fund, \$2,600 for student Speakers Bureau.
- No income will be disbursed from the CHRR endowment fund (currently valued at \$14,155) until the capital is closer to the target of \$3 million.

University support

- \$189,103 operating funds + \$14,947 workshop fund = \$204,050
- \$113,000: H2O program salary/student support from VP research, Grad Studies and Agriculture
- \$7,439: Legal Research Institute for summer research assistant on Muslim women project
- In-kind support from Law, including maintenance of three desktop computers and a laptop, two phones, photocopying, office supplies, accounting support, communications and payroll assistance.
- Space in Robson Hall: office and open area, totaling 57 square metres, as well as an office the director is entitled to as a professor.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Salaries:

Staff salaries and teaching release	\$130,466
Student research assistants	\$ 3,300
Benefits	<u>\$ 25,571</u>
Total salaries	<u>\$159,337</u>

Other:

Travel & hospitality	\$ 12,293
Privacy/access workshop	\$ 11,120
Small grants to researchers	\$ 6,940
Printing	\$ 3,245
Supplies	\$ 472
Events and miscellaneous	<u>\$ 1,436</u>
Total non-salary	<u>\$ 35,506</u>

Total operating/workshop expenses **\$ 194,843** (\$9,207carried over to 2015/16)

- It remains difficult to fulfill existing project commitments with only a half-time office assistant.
- The timing of budget decisions (late May) makes it impossible to hire summer research assistants with CHRR funds.
- The CHRR website needs a makeover but we have no financial capacity to take on this project.
- Savings from 2014-15 will help the CHRR survive the 4% budget cut in 2015-16. However, the research centre will need to cancel its small grants program and reduce programming within a couple of years unless future research grants include cost recovery for staff time. This is unfortunate at a time when the centre is gaining momentum and Winnipeg is becoming an internationally recognized centre for human rights research and education.
- The university's capital campaign has the potential to raise endowment funds that could give CHRR long-term stability. However, the campaign has not yet produced any specific commitments towards CHRR operating costs.

LOOKING AHEAD

Expected growth: CHRR continues to take a lead role in the establishment of a new Master of Human Rights degree program, which could dramatically increase both the number of research projects that might benefit from CHRR assistance and the number of graduate students looking for the kind of research experience CHRR provides.

Difficulties foreseen: Overcoming the **silos mentality** and structure of faculties remains an issue for this inter-faculty research centre. Recent funding cuts have exacerbated the situation, with faculties fearing that any interfaculty initiative will be funded at the expense of their own budgets. Individual deans and department heads with a broader vision have helped us overcome these barriers in some instances, but it will help if the university continues to remove structural barriers to collaboration.