

CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
First annual report to Senate Committee on University Research
2013-14

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:

Faculty members¹	71 UM and 11 other
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11 small grant recipients• 10 on advisory board• 10 UM profs and three from other universities working on director's SSHRC partnership development grant• 22 UM profs and eight from other universities involved in NSERC H2O project• Five other UM profs are contributors to human rights museum book• Three other UM faculty developing archives access workshop• five working on master's in human rights proposal• five organized joint events	
Postdoctoral fellows	1
Ph.D. students	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• three through H2O program• two through small grant• one through director's partnership development grant	
Master's students	6 UM and 4 other
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• one part time website/social media assistant• one part-time to podcast/summarize seminar series• two UM and two from other universities through H2O program• two at UM and two at other universities through partnership development grant	
Post-grad medical student	1
Law students	14
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• three summer student research assistants• one year-round part-time for Speaker's Bureau<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ plus 9 occasional presenters• one short-term research assistant	
Undergraduate students	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• five on small grant projects• two through partnership development grant• one through H2O program	
Technical support	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• through Robson Hall	
Administrative, Secretarial	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• manager (full-time)• H2O project co-ordinator (full-time)• office assistant (20 hours/week)	

¹ The range of involvement varies widely, with major engagement by Busby (50% of her workload), Agriculture's Farenhorst (13%) and Arts professors Woolford (10%), Starzyk (8%), Muller and Desmarais. 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.

Community partners

- Active partners include the [Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs](#) and the Public Interest Law Centre.

ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS²

Academic publications

Karen Busby, Adam Muller and Andrew Woolford, eds., *The Idea of a Human Rights Museum* (accepted by University of Manitoba Press for publication in 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 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.)

Newspaper columns

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.

² Listing only those publications and creative works that benefited from CHRR support.

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 Adivasi in India*, 2013. (short video)

DEGREES (past academic year)

None of the graduate students listed above has yet graduated.

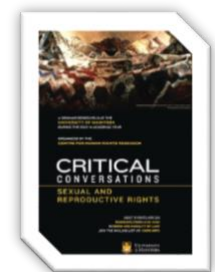
OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- Critical Conversations [seminar series on sexual and reproductive rights](#) (plus at least 1,500 hits to podcast page)
- [Student Speakers Bureau](#)
- Director helped organize and spoke at 2013 [Pitblado lectures](#) on human rights challenges and achievements
- [Writing for Social Justice and Human Rights](#) forum for teachers

Shawna Ferris & James Blanchard



- [Sexual Rights and wrongs](#) event, *Free Press News Café*, with professors Shawna Ferris, James Blanchard and Sarah Teetzel.
- Consultations with Vital Statistics on birth registration gender designation changes and with the Law Reform Commission on surrogate parentage
- Two [media training](#) workshops



- Open house in new research space
- Helped prepare university's position on [privacy and access litigation](#) related to Indian residential school records.
- Co-sponsored: [Rwandan genocide](#) commemoration, [science for human rights](#) and distinguished visitor Richard Moon ([religion and hate speech](#))
- At least 26 invited local, national and [U.S. presentations](#) by faculty, staff and students about CHRR projects to a combined audience of more than 1,500.
- The director and other CHRR-supported researchers were quoted in or wrote 39 print and broadcast news stories about human rights issues, including the newspaper columns listed above. A few other examples:
 - [Too few Aboriginal girls getting HPV vaccine](#)
 - [On the trail of solving a mass murder](#)
- At least two student conference posters on CHRR-related research.
- The CHRR website was used by 17,709 different people this year, up from 12,140 the previous year. Five YouTube videos of CHRR seminars or lectures have about 2,500 hits.

SOURCES OF FUNDING 2013-14

External funds generated

- 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, \$3,800 (summer 2013)

Elder carrying water



- Dr. Brenda Elias and Prof. Karen Busby, CIHR, Cherishing Water and Claiming Health, \$25,000 (final report submitted March 2014)

CHRR is also providing support for 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

Dr. Andrew Woolford



Endowment or trust income

- Robson Hall endowment fund, \$2,000 for student Speakers Bureau.
- No income will be disbursed from the CHRR endowment fund until the capital is closer to the target of \$3 million.

University support

- \$179,669 operating funds, plus \$7,960 carryover from 2012-13
- \$113,000: H2O program salary/student support from VP research and faculties
- \$7,477: Legal Research Institute for summer research assistant
- \$6,000: Undergraduate research award for summer student
- In-kind support from Law, including maintenance of two desktop computers and a laptop, two phones, photocopying, office supplies, accounting support, and some 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 & teaching release	\$125,401
Student research assistants	\$ 11,183
Benefits	<u>\$ 24,925</u>
Total salaries	\$161,509

Other:

Small grants to researchers	\$ 18,850
Travel	\$ 3,314
Printing	\$ 1,644
Supplies	\$ 1,468
Events and miscellaneous	<u>\$ 844</u>
Total non-salary	\$ 26,120

Total operating expenses **\$187,629**

- It is increasingly difficult to fulfill existing project commitments with only a half-time office assistant.
- CHRR was spared budget cuts in 2014-15. However, the research centre will need to cancel its small grants program and reduce programming within a couple of years if subjected to the budget cut anticipated in 2015-16. This is unfortunate at a time when the new 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.