CURRENT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY FOR PHD APPLICANTS

Graduate Program: Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics PhD Program
Research Cluster(s): Marginalized Populations & Social Determinants of Health
Supervisor: Dr. Greta Bauer
Supervisor’s Affiliations: Professor, Epidemiology and Biostatistics
                      Affiliate Member, Women’s Studies and Feminist Research
Vacancies: 1
Term: 4 years
Student Position: We are seeking one full-time doctoral student with strong quantitative and community-based research skills to pursue their graduate education in the department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

The successful candidate will have a deep interest in transgender health and knowledge of trans communities, and will participate as a member of our national interdisciplinary community-based research team. Trans PULSE Canada builds on the earlier work of Trans PULSE in Ontario. We will describe the health and health care experiences of trans people in Canada, across provinces/territories and within nine priority populations: those who are Indigenous, sex workers, immigrants, racialized, older, youth, living in rural or remote locations, living with disabilities, and/or those who identify as gender non-binary. We will make comparisons to Ontario’s 2009-2010 trans population, as well as to the general population using Statistics Canada data. Finally, we will use our data to identify key factors that shape trans health equity.

Activities may include survey promotion, data collection, data cleaning, data analysis, and working in conjunction with trans community members, policy makers, and health and social service providers to plan knowledge translation strategies. Thesis topics may involve physical or mental health and well-being, health services access or experiences, social determinants of health, or other areas. The student will be expected to not only publish their thesis research, but contribute their findings to broader knowledge translation as appropriate (in both official languages and others, if relevant), for example through community reports, policy briefs, or infographics.
Project Summary: The Trans PULSE Canada survey will be a large multi-mode convenience sample, promoted as a voluntary ‘community census’. Canadian residents whose gender identity does not match their sex assigned at birth will be eligible to complete a ‘long form’ questionnaire or choose a ‘short form’ containing key items. Data from the combined sample will be used to produce sampling weights for analysis of the long-form data, to account for participation bias related to being willing or able to complete a long survey. The self-administered questionnaire will be available in English or French, to be completed online, by paper copy, or by telephone (with language interpreter). In ten cities, peer workers will also be hired to visit community organizations with survey tablets to collect data from trans people who face barriers to participation. Given that this will be a unique data resource, participants will be consented for recontact to allow for follow-up studies, including a companion study of Indigenous gender diversity that has its developmental phase nested within this project. Trans PULSE Canada uses a community-based research approach, with a trans-majority team and National Steering Committee, an Indigenous Leadership Group, and Priority Population Consultation Teams. We are led by a pan-Canadian team of academic, community, service provider, and policy partners.

To Apply: Applicants must independently apply to the Epidemiology and Biostatistics PhD graduate program, using the online Western application portal, including a clear reference to this research project in the Statement of Academic Interest.

Application Deadline: January 15

Contact Information: Questions regarding the application process, or inquiries about the Epidemiology and Biostatistics program may be addressed to the Academic Programs Coordinator, at epibio@uwo.ca.

Questions about this graduate student opportunity posting may be addressed to Dr. Greta Bauer (gbauer@uwo.ca).