

Critical Cross-Border Conversations Research Group



Welcome

We are delighted to present to you the first newsletter of Critical Cross-Boarders Conversations Research Group. The Critical Cross-border Conversations (CCC) Group is a TRU-based, nationally and internationally linked, multidisciplinary group committed to knowledge creation, exchange, and the networking of critical researchers on contemporary social issues. Our newsletter is part of our mission to foster knowledge exchange and provide information on latest developments, news, and announcements.

Who We Are

The name *Critical Cross-border Conversations*, both distinct and descriptive, reflects a pilot knowledge mobilization and exchange platform for scholarly conversations responding to contemporary issues of social justice — one that transcends boundaries transnationally, across and within disciplines. In particular, each word is chosen for its multilayered implications:

- "Critical" signifies not only the critical multidisciplinary body of theory and research methodologies working for social justice, but also its timely, urgent, and transformative connotations.
- "Cross-border" denotes transdisciplinary and transnational or the transgressive opportunities across and within disciplines and nations.
- "Conversations" refers to academic reflections, responses, and analyses which are inclusive and trans-medium (written, oral, performance, visual).



Announcements

Launch Party

Our first year as a research group has seen many exciting developments. In March 2016, we held our inaugural launch inviting and acknowledging all CCC TRU endorsers for their support. In total, we had the endorsement from 41 faculty from 16 disciplines across 8 institutions. Thank you for those who attended! During our time together, the TRU endorsers shared their desires of what CCC will achieve for them.

Here are the common themes identified during our launch event:

- Mobilization of critical research theories and methodologies
- Local and global interdisciplinary collaborations
- The power of storytelling virtually and in person
- Student engagement

The ideas we gathered at the launch will help us as we proceed to develop the CCC Research Group.

A major milestone reached our first year includes the construction of our webpage with the help of TRU Communications. Additionally, we partnered with a local film company Joy Factory where we wrote and filmed a CCC promotional video. We have also submitted our application for TRU Research Centre Status.

Members



(Dionne Mohammed, Sabrina Beattie, Kaitlyn O'Toole, Magalie Knopf, Jeri-Lee Lomond)

We are very excited to have four undergraduate research apprentices/assistants joining our group. The research apprentices/assistants will be collaborating on events and planning related to building the infrastructure of CCC alongside Drs. Jeyapal and West individual areas of research. In addition, CCC hired former student research apprentice and now TRU graduate Magalie Knopf, BSW

What Does Being a Research Apprentice/Assistant Mean to You?

Being a research apprentice means committing myself to learning. I do not believe one can stop being a research apprentice. Once the relation has been created, it is the apprentice's ongoing role to observe and learn from her mentor. These learnings take place through assignments, conversations, observations and self-reflections. As a research apprentice, it is my responsibility to continue to acquire data and wisdom. My goal is to disseminate my learnings in a way that elevates the future initiatives of my mentor and my own. My hope is to acquire experience in the utilization of critical feminist theory when deconstructing Canadian federal policy and consequently assist in the minimization of the Western Coloniality of Power.

- Sabrina Beattie

I am honored to collaborate with the Critical Cross Border Conversation Research Center at Thompson Rivers University. Being a Research Apprentice with CCC fills me with inspiration as I will have the opportunities through mentorship to collaborate with academic scholars and professionals in the field. Furthermore, by being a Research Apprentice I will gain more confidence in critical thinking and writing and my abilities to do ethical research which contributes to policy and program development, and systemic changes. I look forward to expanding my professional skills in preparation for a Masters of Social Work and future career.

- Jeri-Lee Lomond

I believe in, and am passionate about the importance of this research. I look forward to being a part of breaking barriers that hinder critical cross-cultural communications, enabling researchers to collaborate in addressing significant social issues with those most impacted by them. It is my desire, through this research, to share in a legacy that will improve future research at TRU through the establishment of Critical Cross-border Conversations. I hope that by working alongside this dynamic, innovative team, and under the tutelage of Dr. Juliana West and Dr. Daphne Jeyapal, I will impart the best of my abilities to do what I came into social work for - highlight important social issues affecting Indigenous peoples, minorities, and those living in the margins of society while maintaining the highest standard of ethical practice and promoting social justice.

- Dionne Mohammed

I have been working with Dr. Daphne Jeyapal as a Research Assistant and an Apprentice examining how public policy and discourse complicates the civil liberties of activists in Canada. This opportunity has been an incredible experience thus far and means so much to my future career as a social work academic. I'm hopeful that my connection with Critical Cross-Border Conversations will broaden my professional network, challenge and foster her academic growth and provide further opportunities for her to meaningfully contribute to social justice initiative.

- Kaitlyn O' Toole

We hope that you enjoyed reading the newsletter. Please look out for another newsletter highlighting upcoming events and latest announcements.

Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for more information on CCC's 2017 Spring Event coming soon!

Contact

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<https://www.tru.ca/edsw/research/critical-cross-border-conversations.html>