

# Acadia Economics Society

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Conference

K.C. Irving Center

February 10<sup>th</sup> 2018

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### Conference Program

9:30am-9:45am Registration **KCIC Lower Level**

9:45am-10:00am Nutrition Break **KCIC Lower Level**

10:00am-12:00pm Morning Session **KCIC Auditorium**

1. **Sarah Ross** Acadia University  
Play Like a Girl: The Presence of Gender-Based Equality in Varsity Athletics at Acadia University
2. **Samantha Teichman** Acadia University  
Double Tap That: A Mixed Methods Research on the Association Between Personal Branding Practices and Instagram
3. **Colin Mitchell** Acadia University  
An Ever Closer Union: Communitarization of the European Union's Border Security
4. **Daniel Gold** Mount Allison University  
Do chefs actually cook?

12:00pm-2:00pm Lunch Break

2:00pm-4:00pm Afternoon Session **KCIC Auditorium**

1. **Douglas Spafford** Acadia University  
Estimating the Impact of Social Capital on the Wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples
2. **Mehmed Hajrovic** Crandall University  
Determinants of the size of household debts: An empirical analysis in Canada.
3. **Mallory Ross** Dalhousie University  
The Psychological Distress of Indigenous Peoples in Canada Linked to Educational Attainment: A Regression Analysis of Gender Differences

# Presentation Summaries

Sarah Ross

Acadia University

## **Play Like a Girl: The Presence of Gender-Based Equality in Varsity Athletics at Acadia University**

Using a mixed methods approach that incorporates qualitative and quantitative measure, “Play Like a Girl: The Presence of Gender-Based Equality in Varsity Athletics at Acadia University” seeks to investigate the subject of gender equity amidst the varsity athletics program at Acadia University. To do so, the study employs a research question of whether or not Acadia University embodies values of fairness and opportunity toward all athletes regardless of gender and sex. To address the question, the research unpacks the structural practices applied toward and experienced by male and female athletes. Themes emphasized within the study relate to if-or-how gender impacts performance (and results), whether media relations promote specific teams more heavily than others in relation to gender, whether or not double standards are maintained in sport, and whether discrepancies in funding can be recognized differentiating support between female and male athletes. In gathering this information, quantitative surveys were sent out to the varsity athletics population at the university. As well, qualitative semi-structured interviews were utilized to gather more information from athletes, senior administrative members, and support staff with the purpose of collecting richer data regarding gender in varsity sport from-and-of those therein. Out of 284 athletes, 112 filled out the surveys with 75 fully completed responses. To further compliment this research, the use of photovoice was also incorporated to provide a visual articulation of the research question, particularly surrounding the theme of funding. From a theoretical standpoint, the study itself is immersed in the field of findings. The results are therefore analyzed through thematic interpretations of feminist theory. Contributing to this discussion, feminist lenses employed include liberal, radical, and Marxist approaches. The aim of this work is to gauge the issue of gender equality in sport at Acadia. With a succinct sample-size being analyzed and sociologically unpacked, which illustrates the dynamics of this post-secondary institution, it is hoped that this original contribution to the academy could enable critical policy shifts to better recognize the role of women in sport – be it solely at Acadia, or in the greater societal framework.

Samantha Teichman

Acadia University

## **Double Tap That: A Mixed Methods Research on the Association Between Personal Branding Practices and Instagram**

This study explored the Acadia University student population and their Instagram use in relation to self promotion and personal branding. During the fall of 2017, this mixed methods study was conducted using an online survey administered to the student body and interviews to explore several social media practices using Instagram. These practices included how students use social media to both market and manage the *presentation of self*. The results revealed that while the majority of students do not consciously report self promotion, data suggest that they do actively engage in self promotion through the use of multiple accounts and strategic posting techniques, i.e. managing a follower to following ratio, and managing multiple accounts (both public and private). As well, the results highlighted the established relationship between self-promotion and

posting ‘selfies’ as narcissistic behaviors and the importance of popularity. This study concluded that a proportion of students use Instagram to promote themselves by being public and having multiple accounts. Furthermore, Instagram and the application’s features are used as a tool to manage the presentations of self while contributing to the digital society and the shaping of identity.

Colin Mitchell

Acadia University

### **An Ever Closer Union: Communitarization of the European Union’s Border Security**

From the signing of the Maastricht Treaty to the formalization of Schengen into European law, the postwar integration of Europe through the idea of a European identity has pushed the current member states of the EU to abolish their internal borders and erect stronger ones on the outside. Pushed by changing times, the EU has had to alter how it polices its external borders by further supranationalizing its security processes. By examining primary sources that have been crucial to the supranationalization of European border security, this article answers the following research question: how has the EU created institutions that supranationalize its border security processes? After searching through primary sources and conducting a discourse analysis on the Maastricht Treaty, Council Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004, the Treaty of Lisbon, Council Decision 2009/371/JHA, Regulation (EU) 1052/2013, and Regulation (EU) 2016/1624, this article concludes that the EU has created institutions that gradually shift the sovereignty from member states to the supranational level as per the rhetoric of securitization. This has generated significant pushback as the chain of command becomes less clear due to communitarization and power to conduct external affairs shifts from member states to EU institutions.

Daniel Gold

Mount Allison University

### **Do chefs actually cook?**

As a somewhat troubled, imaginative youth, I found myself drawn to the restaurant industry. Pictures of chefs’ creations in the movements of “molecular gastronomy” and haute cuisine filled my mind with the promise of a creative, fulfilling life. When I was 12, I even wrote to Thomas Keller at The French Laundry to ask for an apprenticeship. However, when I grew up and found myself working in the kitchen, I was quick to realize that the beauty and sophistication of the plates of fine-dining restaurants came at a price. I came to appreciate, after two stints at a couple of the most-critically acclaimed restaurants in the country, that fine-dining food is not some form of art that is spoiled by the age we live in, nor by the slavish conditions that the workers often endure; where ten-to-fourteen-hour workdays for subsistence pay, often without break is the norm. Rather, food was never meant to be “art,” and only has become one through a fusion with the capitalist mode of production. However, in recent history, activists and small production farmers have begun to question the ways we eat and the ramifications of our current system of food production. In this essay, I will address some questions: Foremost, how did food come to be categorized as art? What were the historical conditions by which fine-dining came to be? And what does fine-dining say about food culture as a whole? I will show that fine-dining exemplifies the aesthetic and social qualities of the capitalist mode of production by engaging with the works of Karl Marx, Harry Braverman and Walter Benjamin. Finally, I will examine the dissonance between the “Food Movement” and fine-dining.

Douglas Spafford

Acadia University

**Estimating the Impact of Social Capital on the Wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples**

Reconciliation requires that indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians overcome the conflicts of the past and the legacies that they create. One of the legacies of this past is the vast socio-economic gaps between indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians. This thesis aims to assist in reconciling this gap, via literature on social capital and its effects on wellbeing, and regression analysis of the Statistics Canada 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey. After establishing a theoretical relationship between social capital and wellbeing, I use the ordered probit regression model to find that social capital, as measured by degree of isolation, has a statistically significant effect on wellbeing for both indigenous adults and youth.

Mehmed Hajrovic

Crandall University

**Determinants of the size of household debts: An empirical analysis in Canada**

This paper uses the 2012 Canada Survey of Financial Security to find out characteristics of Canadian households who borrow money. This paper breaks down household debts into three major types: Mortgage, Personal Loans and Line of Credits. Contrasting between Tobit and GLM analysis, I have found out that different types of debts may be associated with quite different determinants. The average Atlantic Canadian household carry more debts than the rest of the country. Graduates living in Manitoba and Alberta carry less student loans than other provinces.

Mallory Ross

Dalhousie University

**The Psychological Distress of Indigenous Peoples in Canada Linked to Educational Attainment: A Regression Analysis of Gender Differences**

The purpose is to analyze the effect of past educational attainment and other correlates on the psychological distress of Indigenous males and females >25 years in Canada. The groups studied come from six provinces and two territories in Canada self-identifying as First Nations, Metis or Inuit on Statistics Canada's Aboriginal Peoples Survey from 2012. Regression analysis is used to examine the relationship between years of education attained and the presence of suicidal thoughts. The regression model includes an interaction term on the education of females to observe this relationship for men and women separately. The findings suggest that psychological distress is more prevalent in women and less prevalent in men as years of education increase.