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University of Toronto



MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION & CREMS SPONSORED
RESEARCH AWARDS IN THE HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
2018 SUPERVISOR INFORMATION FORM

If you wish to act as a Supervisor for a first or second year University of Toronto medical student wishing to conduct a research project in the Humanities & Social Sciences between June and August 2018, please complete the form below with as much detail as possible.

*****Submit this form to crems.programs@utoronto.ca by the deadline of **February 25, 2019*******

PART A: Supervisor and On-Site Supervisor Contact Information

Name	Anne-Emanuelle Birn
Email Address	ae.birn@utoronto.ca
Telephone	416 946 5792
Department	Dalla Lana School of Public Health Centre for Critical Development Studies
Selected Publications	<p>Birn, Anne-Emanuelle, Shipton, Leah, and Schrecker, Ted, "Canadian mining and ill health in Latin America: A call to action," <u>Canadian Journal of Public Health</u>, online 6 September 2018; print version Dec 2018: 109(5), 786-790 https://doi.org/10.17269/s41997-018-0113-y https://rdcu.be/5Z7i</p> <p>Schrecker, Ted, Birn, Anne-Emanuelle, and Aguilera, Mariajosé, "How extractive industries affect health: Political economy underpinnings and pathways," <u>Health & Place</u>, 2018, 52 (July):</p>



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	135–147. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2018.05.005
Area of Research Project (2 keywords)	Post-extractivism, Sumak Kawsay

PART B: Project Information

The option to consider student ideas and/or opt for a less detailed supervisor project description is also available. If this pertains to your project/situation, please indicate below in the space provided

Project Title (this can be modified later, but we would like to have a working title from the start):

Transcending extractive economies: A health perspective from the Andes

Provide background information on the project (max 500 words):

As increasing attention to the corporate, commercial, and environmental determinants of health demonstrates, the social and economic inequality inherent to the current global political-economy constitutes the most pressing health concern of our time. Perhaps no sector illustrates the health injustices of the contemporary global order more than the extractive sector. Transnational mining corporations (TNMCs) exacerbate social, economic, health, and environmental inequalities through the continued extraction of resource wealth from countries in the Global South to benefit corporations and citizens in the Global North. Canada is a key player, with over half of the world’s mining companies listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange and TSX venture exchange. Most of Canada’s foreign mining investment occurs in Latin America, with Canadian mining companies –heavily undergirded by Canadian securities, tax, legal, and diplomatic policies– accounting for 50-90% of total mining investment in many Central and South American countries.

Building on prior work documenting the pathways through which TNMCs damage health (Birn et al. 2018; Schrecker et al. 2018), the proposed project inverts the focus by examining mining-affected communities’ resistance to mining —and the health benefits thereof. Communities have defiantly opposed mining through both concerted mobilization and imagined societal alternatives to extraction. Anti-mining activism serves as a vehicle for upstream health protection and promotion by preventing the various outcomes of mining that harm health, including: (1) physical and economic displacement through loss of land and livelihoods; (2)



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toxic environmental contamination, water scarcity, and food insecurity; (3) dangerous working conditions; (4) violence through private security and state-sponsored repression; (5) disruption of community cohesion; (6) poverty and exacerbation of social and economic inequalities; and (7) loss of traditional territories and culture. In these ways, communities' activism addresses a range of political and economic determinants of health.

Those most disrupted by mining are Indigenous peoples, whose worldviews present a stark contrast to global patterns of excessive consumerism. Responding to extractive injustice in Ecuador, the Indigenous concept of *Sumak Kawsay* serves as an alternative to the destructive and finite paradigms of resource extraction. Broadly, *Sumak Kawsay* is concerned with people and societies living in harmony with one another and with the natural environment. Based on values of collectivity, cooperation, and social equity, *Sumak Kawsay* (sometimes [mis]-translated as *buen vivir*) necessarily requires a revolutionary disruption of dominant values of individualism, competition, and economic growth.

In this project, the student will explore the health-promoting dimensions of *Sumak Kawsay* to reimagine an approach to global governance of the extractive industry, one that redirects attention to the structural determinants of health underpinning extractivism and makes links to the global crises it is perpetuating, such as environmental degradation, health inequity, and wealth concentration. *Sumak Kawsay* will be: compared with current efforts at building a post-carbon economy to stave off climate change; and contrasted with governance efforts to reign in problematic practices of TNMCs, such as voluntary corporate social responsibility and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, both of which lack a critical analysis of (the health effects of) power differentials between TNMCs and mining-affected communities.

Student's roles and responsibilities in bullet form (please be as specific as possible):

- Scoping review of English and Spanish language peer-review and grey literature on buen vivir, sumak kawsay and other Andean approaches to living in harmony with the natural environment as an approach to improving health
- Mapping out dimensions of post-extractive approaches and health, modeling/referring to post-carbon economies
- Interviewing and working with Ecuadorian colleagues as a solidarity project (opportunity for student to present her ideas and develop this project according to direction from Ecuadorian colleagues and community)
- Knowledge translation to Canadian health community and general public- article, blog, and presentation



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<p>Is this project for a specific student, or will you interview and select an interested student who would contact you directly for this opportunity? <i>Note: All supervisor/student applications will be adjudicated by a panel of faculty, given a score, and ranked based on the score given. Funding will be based on ranking.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For a specific student. Name of student: __Nikisha Khare</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> For whichever student is chosen after interview</p>
<p>If human subjects are involved, has Ethics been obtained? <i>Note: Written proof or an email indicating protocol approval may be requested prior to the student's arrival at on-site location</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>