



## Social and Behavioural Health Sciences Divisional Seminar

**Monday, April 18, 2016, 1pm – 2pm, Room HS 208**  
**Health Sciences Building, 155 College Street, Toronto**

**Andrea A. Cortinois, Assistant Professor, DLSPH:**

### ***'It's like nothing happened': Migration, Fractured Families and Mental Health***

**Abstract:** Globally, approximately 250 million people live outside their country of birth. Of these people, 20 million, less than 10%, are officially recognized as refugees. The remaining 230 million are people who have moved in search of better economic and social opportunities. While migration is one of the constitutional characteristics of our species, the phenomenon has grown dramatically since the 1980s in response to the new international division of labour resulting from economic globalization. Similarly, over the same period of time, internal migration has also grown, even if reliable statistics are scarce. The characteristics of migration fluxes have changed significantly, too. For example, today, almost half of migrants are women of reproductive age. Both internal and international economic migrations increasingly result in the separation of families often for periods of months or years. Separation has a significant impact on the mental health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities. In spite of the significance and potential impact of this phenomenon on health, limited attention has been given to the problem of fractured families in the literature. This seminar will: (a) present the results of a review of the literature focusing on intervention in support of fractured families; (b) discuss such results and identify explicit and hidden double standards related to this issue; and, (c) suggest additional steps in the development of a long-term research agenda on this topic.

**Short bio:** Over the past 30 years, Andrea has worked as a journalist, researcher, teacher, and manager of health-related interventions on four continents, mainly in low-income countries. He has earned a Masters of Public Health with a global health emphasis, in the UK, and a PhD at the Institute of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation, University of Toronto. At the Dalla Lana School of Public Health Andrea teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses in migration and health and global public health. In addition, he leads the Masters Global Public Health Emphasis program and co-leads the new undergraduate initiative the School has launched. Over the past several years, Andrea has worked on applied research projects focusing on the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to reach marginalized population groups, both in Canada and globally. His research agenda focuses on the links between globalization, migration and health and on the use of ICTs in support of equity-oriented interventions. In addition, Andrea has a strong interest in innovative and digital pedagogy.

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**Fiona Webster, Associate Professor, Department of Family & Community Medicine and DLPSH:**

### ***Medical Complexity or Poverty?*** ***An Institutional Ethnography of Chronic Pain Care in Ontario***

**Abstract:** Chronic disease is increasingly recognized as an issue of global concern and issues in the management of chronic pain are being increasingly reported. Of the growing number of people with chronic conditions, the incidence and prevalence of patients with multimorbidities –that is, patients with more than one chronic condition- continue to rise and, in countries like Canada, this burden is compounded by an aging population and individuals living longer lives. While there has been a great deal of attention paid to identifying the epidemiology of multimorbidity and patient complexity, comparatively little attention has been paid to the processes of care that treating complex patients entails, and to identifying what high-quality, patient-centered care for these patients should look like. Consequently, the concept of patient complexity itself does not necessarily speak to how challenging or straightforward it may be to provide high-quality patient-centered care. In our ethnographic study of primary care delivery for chronic pain patients, we challenge the standard notions of medical complexity in the literature that often ignore the low socio-economic status of patients whom physicians experience as complex.

**Short bio:** Fiona Webster is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto (UofT), holds cross-appointments to IHPME, SBHS, where she teaches two graduate-level courses in qualitative research, and is a fellow of the Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research (CQ). She currently holds a CIHR Investigator Award and has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles in clinical journals using primarily qualitative methods. Her formal training is in sociology and specifically institutional ethnography and her research interests are in the social organization of care delivery.