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Aging During COVID-19: Trent Centre for Aging & Society Launches Video Series

September 25, 2020

Series highlights three research projects exploring older voluntarism, social isolation and age-friendly policies in the context of COVID-19



A new three-part video series is delving into Trent Centre for Aging & Society (TCAS) research projects – exploring aging during a global pandemic and highlighting successes to date. [Aging During COVID-19](#) explores projects funded through the Trent Office for Research and Innovation that explore the timely topics of older voluntarism, social connections and age-friendly policy frameworks.

One project, [Older Voluntarism in an Era of Global Pandemic](#), is led by Dr. Mark Skinner, dean of Social Science at Trent University and Canada research chair in rural aging, Dr. Elizabeth McCrillis, director of TCAS and assistant professor of Psychology, and Amber Colibaba, research coordinator. It examines the experiences and challenges of older volunteers and volunteer-based programs during COVID-19 in partnership local volunteer-based organizations

programs during COVID-19 in partnership with volunteer-based organizations.

The [*Social Isolation to Social Connection*](#) project, seeks to mitigate the negative social and health impacts of social isolation as a result of COVID-19 in the Peterborough area, by uncovering the experiences and stories of local seniors and their caregivers. This project is being conducted by Ann Macleod, instructor in the Trent Fleming School of Nursing.

Dr. Sally Chivers, professor of English and Gender & Women's Studies at Trent is leading a project entitled [*Imagine Aging*](#), which utilizes digital cues – short videos that invite broader conversation – to be continued within the reality of COVID-19 restrictions. This research builds on a larger project that seeks to extend the reach of age-friendly policies to be more equitable to and supportive of populations that are not considered by official age-friendly frameworks.

[Learn more about the Trent Centre for Aging & Society.](#)

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trentaging TCAS is thrilled to showcase research by Dr. Mark Skinner, TCAS executive member and founding director; Dr. Elizabeth McCrillis, TCAS Director; and Amber Colibaba, TCAS research associate that explores the experiences and challenges of older volunteers and volunteer-based programs during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Liked by [atapson](#) and 33 others

14 HOURS AGO

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Trent Centre for Aging & Society
@TrentAging



“This project is going to give us all kinds of rural insights in terms of what it means to live through and age during this pandemic”. The first video of the TCAS video series: Aging During COVID-19 is live!

bit.ly/2FN8I3N @SelwynTownship @TrentUniversity
#TrentUResearch



Aging During COVID-19: Older voluntarism

Soon after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Trent University's Office of Research and Innovation announced a ...

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

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Trent Centre for Aging & Society

14h · 🌐



TCAS is thrilled to showcase research by Dr. Mark Skinner, TCAS executive member and founding director; Dr. Elizabeth McCrillis, TCAS Director; and Amber Colibaba, TCAS Research Associate that explores the experiences and challenges of older volunteers and volunteer-based programs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This video is the first in the new three-part TCAS video series Aging During COVID-19, highlighting TCAS members' research funded through Trent's Office of Research a... [See More](#)



You, Stephen Katz, Emily Mullins and 8 others



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trentaging TCAS members Jayne Culbert, Ann Macleod, Dr. Catherine Ward-Griffin and Dawn Berry Merriam, along with research assistant Justine Levesque are conducting research that aims to mitigate the negative social and health impacts of social isolation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This video is the second in the new three-part TCAS video series Aging During COVID-19, highlighting TCAS members' research funded through the Trent Office of Research and Innovation's Special Call for COVID-19 research.

Watch the full video in IGTV.

[#TrentU](#) [#agingstudies](#)



Liked by [ambercolibaba](#) and 11 others

7 DAYS AGO

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trentaging Imagine Aging is a project conducted by Sally Chivers, TCAS executive member and past director; and research assistant Kate Simola, along with Tamara Daly (York University) and Julia Brassolotto (of Lethbridge).

The initial project included research in six different countries, comparing services for older adults and developing promising practices for equitable and just aging for all through digital storytelling. This video profiles how Dr. Chivers is adapting the project, through digital cues – short videos that invite a broader conversation – to continue within the reality of COVID-19 restrictions.



Liked by **sallychivsto** and **18 others**

14 HOURS AGO

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Post

From: Leo Groarke leogroarke@trentu.ca
Subject: Trent Pulse: Headlines & Highlights
Date: October 9, 2020 at 10:00 AM
To: elizabethmccrillis@trentu.ca

LG



OCTOBER 2020

This is indeed a different fall than what we are used to at Trent. With our multi-access approach to learning now in full swing, I am proud of the way staff and faculty have risen to the challenges and opportunities presented by this pandemic - prioritizing health and safety, and continuing to build on the Trent experience for our students.



President Groarke greeted future students from his kayak during Trent's Virtual Fall Preview.

Last weekend, our Virtual Fall Preview event for future students and the culmination of a successful week-long virtual Homecoming celebration demonstrated how we continue to redefine the ways we can connect during a time of physical distancing.

This issue of *Trent Pulse* highlights many other inspiring stories and initiatives - read on to discover more about our first-ever move in day in the brand new Durham residence; investments in our students' remote learning opportunities through the donation of 500 Chromebooks; and how our leading faculty continue to make headlines on today's pressing issues. You can also learn about the initiation of two important working groups related to equity, diversity and inclusion, which are being led by our new provost Dr. Michael Khan.

As we continue to navigate our new normal (for now), I encourage you to continue to share your stories with our [Communications Team](#) and keep up-to-date with the [Trent News](#) and our [Trent Forward](#) plans.

Stay connected, stay well.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leo Groarke".

TRENT MAKES HEADLINES

Nationally, regionally and internationally, Trent is making headlines. Read on for a sample of some of our most recent success stories.





Global Executive Katie Taylor Named Trent School of Business' Inaugural CEO-in-Residence

A successful career in business starts with an expert mentor. Trent's new CEO-in-Residence program is providing students at both campuses access, inspiration and opportunities to learn from business leaders. Up first: Dr. Katie Taylor.



Move In Day Milestone: Trent Durham GTA Students Arrive at New Residence

Durham GTA's campus is buzzing with new energy. Sixteen months after the official groundbreaking, the contemporary six-storey residence and academic building opened its doors to a group of enthusiastic first-time residents.

Philanthropy Spotlight: RBC Supports Students' Future Career Aspirations

Investing \$70,000 in support of the Life After Trent program, RBC Future Launch gives students access to online resources, workshops and connections to help prepare them for success post-graduation. Life After Trent helps students gain essential job skills and know-how in business, leadership, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, global perspectives, intercultural sensitivity, innovation, and emotional intelligence.

More Trent News

- Provost announces initiation of two working groups related to equity, diversity and inclusion matters at Trent: the Anti-Racism Task Force will consider the present environment of equity, diversity and inclusion at the University and formulate recommendations for improvement; the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee will aim to make on how to advance equity, diversity and inclusion within the faculty ranks at Trent
- A new virtual reality learning opportunity helps Trent/Fleming School of Nursing students practice interpersonal and team-building skills
- Trent alumnus wins Emmy for painting epic landscapes in TV show Vikings
- With advanced genome sequencing, Trent scientists discover one group of endangered caribou is actually two
- Raising more than \$270,000, a new donor-funded initiative provides 500 students with Chromebooks to help them succeed with virtual learning
- Trent Centre for Aging & Society launches *Aging During COVID-19*, a new three-part video series exploring older voluntarism, social connection and age-friendly policy framework
- Inspired by campus architecture legend Ron Thom, Trent's new Student Centre wins Ontario Association of Architects' 2020 Design Excellence Award
- Creating Space: Creative projects by Trent students put Indigenous culture front and centre
- Is finding work experience possible in a pandemic? These Bioenvironmental Monitoring and Assessment students are helping organizations through virtual placements

MORE NEWS

TRENT BY THE NUMBERS

Maclean's University Rankings Highlights

A Decade on Top: Trent is Ontario's #1 Undergraduate University for 10 Consecutive Years

The 2021 *Maclean's University*



RESEARCH Matters



Trent University, October 2020 Edition

VICE PRESIDENT STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FUND



Dr. Cathy Bruce (A) Vice President Research & Innovation welcomes funding requests from Trent University faculty, research organizations, graduate and undergraduate student groups engaged in research, and university staff working within the research enterprise to apply for the VPRI Strategic Initiatives Fund. Funds are directed towards research activities for which other sources of funding are not available. Upcoming Deadline: November 15, 2020. [Guidelines](#). [How to Apply](#)

Theall Research Fund

Established in 1987 when Donald Theall retired as President & Vice-Chancellor. The fund supports a one-time research grant to support a junior faculty member (at the university for five years or less) or a faculty member on a Limited Term Appointment. Applicants are asked to submit a one page written document to the President's office (c/o Brenda Blackburn bblackburn@trentu.ca) with details about the project along with a separate page that lists the applicant's relevant publications and research work. Applications must be received by November 2, 2020. For more information please contact Brenda Blackburn in the President's office.

FEATURE | TRENT CENTRE FOR AGING & SOCIETY RESEARCH

Since the pandemic began, Trent Centre for Aging & Society (TCAS) researchers' momentum has continued, and in some cases pivoted, to focus on the intersection of aging and the COVID-19 pandemic. To celebrate this work, TCAS has launched a three-part video series *Aging During COVID-19* that shares members' research projects exploring aging during the COVID-19 pandemic. The projects, funded through Trent's Office for Research and Innovation explore timely topics of older voluntarism, social connections and using digital storytelling.

Older Voluntarism in an Era of Global Pandemic, is a community-based project led by TCAS executive member and founding Director Dr. Mark Skinner,

current TCAS Director Dr. Elizabeth McCrillis and TCAS Research Associate, Amber Colibaba. In partnership with the Selwyn Public Library, the Selwyn Fire Department and the Abbeyfield House Society of Lakefield, the project examines the experiences and challenges of older volunteers and volunteer-based programs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Social Isolation to Social Connection, is a collaborative project conducted by TCAS faculty member Ann Macleod, TCAS fellow Dr. Catherine Ward-Griffin, TCAS community associate Dawn Berry Merriam, the City of Peterborough's age-friendly coordinator Jayne Culbert, and, graduate research assistant Justine Levesque. The research project seeks

to mitigate the negative social and health impacts of social isolation as a result of COVID-19 in the Peterborough area by uncovering the experiences and stories of local seniors and their caregivers.

Imagine Aging is led by TCAS executive member and past Director, Dr. Sally Chivers. The initiative builds on a larger research project seeking to extend the reach of age-friendly policies to be more equitable to and supportive of populations that are not considered by official age-friendly frameworks through digital storytelling. Currently, the project focuses on how to make digital cues – short videos that invite a broader conversation – in COVID times.

TRENT CENTRE FOR AGING & SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020



Dr. Sally Chivers

Honouring Past Director, Dr. Sally Chivers

In the Autumn 2018 newsletter welcoming Dr. Sally Chivers to the position of TCAS director, we asked her to share a little bit about herself, and in doing so, we learned that for Dr. Chivers, generosity is the most underrated virtue. During her tenure as TCAS Director, each and every one of us has, in one way or another, benefitted from Dr. Chivers's limitless generosity and kindness, as well as leadership and excellence in scholarship. From the immense gift of her time to TCAS in the planning and tremendously successful execution of the TrentAging 2019 conference, to her thoughtful approach in furthering the connection of TCAS to our community, to her day to day support of her colleagues at the Centre, Dr. Chivers's generosity of her time, skills, abilities, and her cheery attitude, has truly touched the lives of all involved in TCAS.

On looking back on early involvement with TCAS and her term as Director, Dr. Chivers tells us that "the fondest memories of my time at Trent come from when we were the Trent Aging Studies Collaborative. I was reading over early emails from Stephen Katz from then, recently (digital hoarder over here!). It's been a fulfilling development to grow into a research centre, and yet we have worked hard to maintain that collaborative spirit. When I was director, I found that sense of the collective so important as we found our place on the international stage. As we gain members,

In This Issue

[Honouring Dr. Sally Chivers.....1](#)

[Aging During COVID-19 Series.....3](#)

[Birth Announcement.....4](#)

[MAKE/SHIFT Exhibit Tour.....5](#)

[Art, Aging & Inclusivity.....6](#)

[Curriculum Updates.....9](#)

[Member Updates.....9](#)

TCAS: An interdisciplinary team of more than forty faculty, students and community stakeholders working together to build dialogue around issues related to aging and critically informed aging research.

Vision: Trent University is an international leader in interdisciplinary aging studies that seeks to celebrate aging, understand diverse experiences of aging, and challenge ageist practices in our communities and culture.

TCAS Director

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TRENT CENTRE FOR AGING & SOCIETY

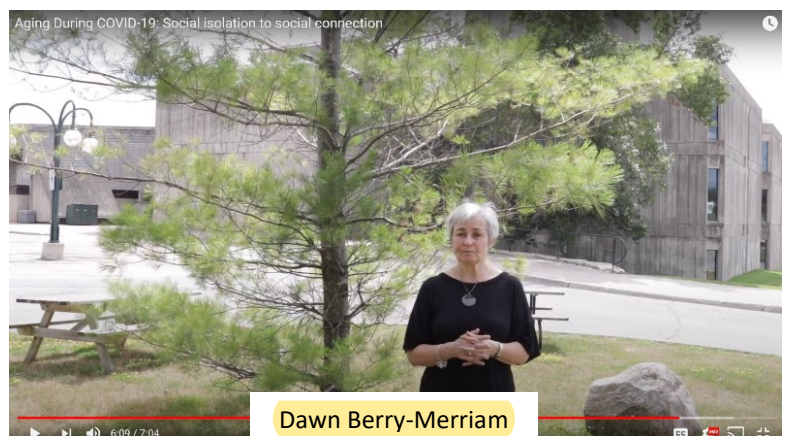
TCAS Presents: Aging During COVID-19

TCAS is thrilled to announce that seven of its members are involved in projects funded by the Trent University Office of Research and Innovation's special call for COVID-19 research. To celebrate the success of its members and to highlight the projects, TCAS has created a new three-part video series, [Aging During COVID-19](#), exploring the experiences of aging during this global pandemic across three of our members' projects.

The first video highlights the project *Older Voluntarism in an Era of Global Pandemic*, led by TCAS executive member and founding director, Dr. Mark Skinner along with TCAS director, Dr. Elizabeth McCrillis and TCAS research associate, Amber Colibaba. This project examines the experiences and challenges of older volunteers and volunteer-based programs during COVID-19 in partnership with the Abbeyfield House Society of Lakefield, the Selwyn Fire Department, and the Selwyn Public Library. [Watch the video.](#)



The second video features the project *Social Isolation to Social Connection*, conducted by TCAS faculty member Ann Macleod; TCAS fellow Dr. Catherine Ward-Griffin; TCAS community associate Dawn Berry Merriam; the City of Peterborough's age-friendly coordinator, Jayne Culbert; and their graduate student research assistant, Justine Levesque. This project seeks to mitigate the negative social and health impacts of social isolation as a result of COVID-19 in the Peterborough area by uncovering the experiences and stories of local seniors and their caregivers. [You can view it here.](#)



The last video showcases the project *Imagine Aging*, led by TCAS executive member and past director Dr. Sally Chivers, along with Tamara Daly (York University) and Julia Brassolotto (University of Lethbridge), and with the support of graduate research assistant Kate Simola. This research builds on a larger project that seeks to extend the reach of age-friendly policies to be more equitable to and supportive of populations that are not considered by official age-friendly frameworks. The initial project included research in six countries, comparing services for older adults and developing promising practices for equitable and just aging for all through digital storytelling. This video profiles how Dr. Chivers is adapting the project, through digital cues – short videos that invite a broader conversation – to continue within the reality of COVID-19 restrictions. [View it here.](#)

