

Call for Applications: 3 Postdoctoral Fellowships in Community-based Health Equity Research (Group Sex, HIV Oral History, 2SLGBTQ+ Health)

We are pleased to announce a call for applications for **three (3) Postdoctoral Fellowship positions (full-time, 2 years)** in the School of Public Health & Social Policy at the University of Victoria (Canada) under the direct supervision of [Dr. Nathan Lachowsky](#) as part of his [Community-based Health Equity Research](#) (CHER) team. Each position is associated with one primary study, with the opportunity to collaborate and support other projects of the CHER team. One position is primarily with our provincial [HIV In My Day oral history project](#), the second position with our [national mixed methods Group Sex study](#), and the third position with our [national 2SLGBTQIA+ health studies on COVID](#) and [chronic health](#). We have numerous new and ongoing projects related to HIV (e.g. PrEP, U=U) and sexual and reproductive health. These Postdoctoral Fellowships will be an opportunity to learn, apply, and lead qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods approaches within the context of community-based research studies. These Postdoctoral Fellow positions can begin as soon as possible, or as negotiated. Remote working arrangements may be possible to start, but eventual physical relocation to Canada is required for international applicants.

Dr. Lachowsky has a vibrant and dynamic [program of research focused on community-based health equity research](#). Our team focuses on empowerment of and social justice for marginalized communities such as 2SLGBTQIA+ people, Indigenous people and ethnoracialized minorities, and those living with and affected by HIV, Hep C, and STIs. We're looking to support enthusiastic folks from the diverse communities that we work with. We believe that no research about these communities should be developed without the communities in question being involved every step of the way. "Nothing about us, without us". As a research environment, our [School of Public Health and Social Policy](#) values social justice, Indigenous knowledges, interdisciplinarity, health equity, and ethical professional conduct.

Three Primary Study Overviews

1) "HIV In My Day"

Within communities most impacted by the HIV epidemic in Canada, HIV/AIDS is both a historical experience of loss and community resilience, and an ongoing public health concern. Oral history offers a way of addressing persistent health challenges, not just by preserving the past, but by providing insight into how current and future prevention and care interventions can be reinvigorated. Thus far, we have conducted ~120 interviews with a diverse group of long-term survivors and caregivers across British Columbia, and established a digital archive. Overall, our work aims to help preserve the cultural memory of the early AIDS epidemic, promote much-needed cross-generational solidarity in the HIV response, stimulate cross-sector dialogue in the present about HIV/AIDS, and contribute a more nuanced temporal lens to future HIV research, prevention, and care. Future work includes support for the launch of a verbatim theatre play.

2) "Group Sex"

Group sex has a long, global history, ranging from Roman bacchanals to modern gay men's circuit parties. Today, group sex remains an important cultural and health phenomenon. We work with multiple sexual communities simultaneously, enabling a deeper understanding of the contemporary meaning and purpose of group sex. We seek to understand group sex communities in a sex-positive, non-stigmatizing perspective that still recognizes sexual risk. Our research project has three objectives: 1) determine how Canadians discover group sex and understand their motivation for participation; 2) assess how group sex participants from different sexual communities conceptualize risk, leisure, and pleasure; and 3) identify group sex harm-reduction practices, with particular emphasis on sexual consent and STI disclosure. To date, we have assembled a community advisory board to help define group sex among different sexual communities and construct a guide for longitudinal in-depth qualitative interviews. Baseline interviews are completed (with plans for 2 additional annual follow-ups), which will be analyzed to inform a questionnaire for a future online national survey.

3) 2SLGBTQIA+ Health Studies

As 2SLGBTQIA+ people, we are collectively strong, creative, and determined. Our communities have also long faced challenges when it comes to our health and wellbeing. We often face stigma and discrimination which profoundly impacts our health and wellbeing. This is especially true for those of us who face compounding challenges due to intersections of our race, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, sexuality, class, age, immigration status, languages, disabilities, substance use, profession (e.g. sex work), or geographic location. We are launching "Our Health", the largest multi-lingual community health survey dedicated to Two-Spirit, Indigiqueer, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, and other sexually and gender diverse people (2SLGBTQIA+) across Canada. While this broad community health survey includes modules on healthcare access, mental health, substance use, sexual health,

reproductive health, community connection, caregiving, discrimination and violence, and housing, the primary foci are on: 1) COVID-19 seroprevalence and secondary impacts, and 2) chronic health (broadly defined) prevalence and impacts. The chronic health focus will also include further mixed methods research on the feasibility and acceptability of administrative health data linkage for our diverse 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

Requirements

Applicants should have demonstrated interest or experience in at least one of the following research areas: HIV/AIDS, sexual health, and human sexuality. Applicants should have methodological training and skills in at least one of oral history, epidemiology, population health, quantitative survey design and data analysis, longitudinal qualitative data collection and analysis. They should have the ability to work collaboratively with an interdisciplinary and multi-site team. As per UVic policy, a PhD must be completed before appointment as a postdoctoral fellow.

Application:

- **Cover letter**, noting relevant research experience, desired start date, and interest in specific positions/studies.
- **Curriculum vitae**, with all relevant employment, volunteer, community, and academic experience.
- **A writing sample**, ideally either a relevant sample publication or thesis/dissertation chapter.
- **List of contact information for three referees** who can be contacted (name, phone and email), and may be invited to attest to the candidate's capacity for critical thinking, interdisciplinary research, independence, perseverance, originality, organization, communication, and collaboration.

Please submit all documents in a single PDF file.

Salary: starting annual salary of \$60,000 CAD per year

Applications will begin being reviewed as of April 1st, 2022, but the posting will remain open until all positions are filled. Application material should be emailed to Anya Slater (anyaslater@uvic.ca). Questions about the positions should be directed to Dr. Nathan Lachowsky (nlachowsky@uvic.ca). *Please share this posting with your networks and any interested individuals.*

Equity Statement

We are committed to upholding the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion. We know that diversity underpins excellence, and that we all share responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community. In pursuit of our values, we seek members who will work respectfully and constructively with differences and across levels of power. We actively encourage applications from members of groups with barriers to equity, including, but not limited to,

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, and all other Indigenous peoples;
- members of groups that commonly experience discrimination due to race, ancestry, colour, religion and/or spiritual beliefs, or place of origin;
- persons with visible and/or invisible disabilities;
- persons of marginalized sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

We recognize that many of these identities intersect and that therefore, equity, diversity and inclusion is complex. We value the contributions that each person brings, and are committed to ensuring full and equal participation for all in our community. We encourage you to self-disclose any relevant information about yourself in your cover letter.