MAIS Symposium – October 4, 2013
Research in the Interdisciplinary World

9:15am – 10:30am: Session One
Equity and Inclusion

Abstracts

Karen M. Nielsen and Ann Marie Dewhurst
"Program Experiences of Men Completing the 'Reaching for a Good Life' Program"

Men involved in intimate partner violence prevention programs are more likely to make progress when they find: a) the content relevant; b) the process responsive to his needs; and, c) participation actually helps him in some way. To ensure that the facilitators of our program received consistent feedback from participants, we employed the Outcome Rating Scale and the Session Ratings Scales (Duncan & Miller). Additionally, to ensure the connection to the Good Life goals the men had established during their treatment planning sessions, the Good Life histogram (Dewhurst, 2011) was employed after each group module as a means of reviewing those goals. The use of these tools for planning and evaluation will be discussed.

We will also report the findings of a qualitative investigation into the experiences of thirty-one men completing the "Reaching for a Good Life" program as well as post-group quantitative measures of executive functioning and anger/hostility. This initial post-group program evaluation data suggests that participation in the program is correlated with positive outcomes at group completion.

Emma Pivato
"Equity, Opportunity and Inclusion for all - including those with multiple disabilities"

My MA-IS area is **Equity Studies** and my specific research area is the exploration and development of rights, possibilities and expectations for people with multiple and severe disabilities. Professionally I have pursued this research through my assessment work in the field of developmental neuropsychology. Personally, I have pursued it as an advocate and mother of a now 35 year-old woman with severe developmental challenges. As such, my methodology has been an "n = 1" case study but one framed within the larger picture of dozens of other individuals with similar challenges whom I have had the opportunity to work with both formally and informally through the years.

For this presentation I will be considering some specific developmental areas, the challenges involved, the conventional solutions and my solutions. Specifically, I will be considering how these disabilities have so inevitably become handicaps and how the physical barriers which allowed them to become handicaps can be removed. Since brain damage is highly variable, the strengths and possibilities uncovered for the subject of my case study, my daughter, Alexis, are not necessarily the same as those

found in every individual similarly challenged. Therefore, the solutions I have uncovered may not always apply. However, my past research on such individuals indicates that in many cases they will.

Of direct relevance to the MA-IS mission, I will talk about the necessity imposed by this research direction to think outside the box, skip between disciplines, and refuse to take 'no' for an answer. Specifically, I will be comparing conventional and interdisciplinary approaches for dealing with Alexis and others like her in terms of meeting various bodily needs, maintaining physical health and development, accommodating sensory deficits and facilitating a life outside the home. This presentation will be for me a rehearsal of the 75 minute presentation I will be making at the TASH* conference in Chicago in December.

*The Association for the Severely Handicapped

Joshua Evans
"The 'Embedded Mobility' of Policy: The Translation of Policies to End Homelessness in Alberta, Canada"

In 2008, Alberta became the first province in Canada to formally unveil a "10-year plan to end homelessness." These "10-year plans" can be traced to U.S.-based, policy think tanks. Implemented first in Chicago, Memphis and Indianapolis in 2000, 10-year plans have since spread across the U.S. By 2010, there were 246 10-year plans to end homelessness in the U.S. at state and municipal levels. When it comes to the mobility of public policy, a burgeoning yet nascent topic in geography, the implementation of 10-year plans in Alberta is ripe for analysis. In this presentation I explore this case of policy mobility in more depth. Drawing on Actor-Network Theory (ANT), I focus on the role of 'translation' in Alberta's turn to U.S.-styled responses to homelessness. Doing so opens a space to comprehend the way in which policy of this kind is simultaneously global and local, fluid and fixed. In fact, it is the tension between local adaptation and global circulation that propels policy forward. Thinking about policy change as a 'chain of translation' is helpful in this regard.