

# Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming Events

**Careers in Evaluation Panel & Networking Event:** Along with the Greater Boston Evaluation Network (GBEN), Northeastern's Public Evaluation Lab is hosting a virtual event to discuss evaluation as a career and potential ways to move into the field. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with Northeastern alumni and evaluation professionals on their career journeys. This event is open to all students or recent grads, and folks do not need to be affiliated with Northeastern to attend.

**Date/time: Wednesday, April 3rd from 5-6:30 PM**

**Location: virtual**

**[Click here to register](#)**

**Works in Progress Series:** A space to learn about our colleagues' work and discuss and provide feedback. This event will be hybrid. Below are doctoral student presenters for our April Works in Progress session:

1. Cynthia Orofo will cover a dissertation study that evaluates how a cCHW program supports adults with cardiovascular disease by taking an implementation science perspective and mixed methods approach, guided by the PRISM Framework.
2. Samuel Carr will discuss how adults are promoting physical activity and making physical activity spaces more gender inclusive and affirming for transgender and gender expansive (TGE) youth. It will dive into factors facilitating engagement of TGE youth and best practices for practitioners.

**Date/time: Thursday, April 18th from 2-3 PM**

**In-person location: IHESJR conference room (308 INVO)**

**[Virtual meeting link](#)**

**Zoom meeting ID: 992 9373 2808 | Passcode: 293517**

**IHESJR Open House:** Every Reading Day, the IHESJR has an open house open to all IHESJR affiliated faculty, staff, and students. It is a time to come together to enjoy some good food and company. Drop in visits are welcome!

**Date/time: Thursday, April 18th from 11 AM - 1 PM**  
**In-person location: IHESJR conference room (308 INVO)**

## Walk for Change

Presented by the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)

Please join the IHESJR in supporting the incredible work BARCC does for sexual violence survivors and their families by joining our Health Equity Huskies Walk for Change team or making a donation! This opportunity was brought to us by Dr. Beth Molnar, an IHESJR Faculty Scholar, who is on the Board of Directors for BARCC.

The annual Walk for Change is meant to help raise awareness and funds to support survivors of sexual violence. The IHESJR has a team participating in the event, with Daphney Mirand, Project Manager for the Molnar Violence and Trauma Research Lab, as team leader. Please **register here** for the walk and join our Health Equity Huskies team for \$40 (\$10 for youth tickets)! If you have any concerns about this fee, please contact Daphney at [d.mirand@northeastern.edu](mailto:d.mirand@northeastern.edu). Daphney will be in touch about logistics as we get closer to the event.



Unable to make it to the Walk for Change event? You can still donate to support the cause and help us reach our goal of raising \$2,000. Every dollar counts; no amount is too small to make a difference. Giving is secure and easy. Simply visit this **fundraising page** and credit your donation to our team, "Health Equity Huskies." We greatly appreciate your support!

**Date/time: Sunday, April 21st, from 8:30 AM - 12 PM**  
**Location: DCR's Constitution Beach in East Boston**  
**Register here to attend with our team!**  
**Cannot attend? Donate here!**

## Publications and Presentations

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Dr. Katherine Hazen, Assistant Program Director of NU's Public Evaluation Lab (NU-PEL), had an article published in the journal *Family Court Review* titled "The Children's Justice Clinic: Ensuring high-quality legal representation for children through clinical legal education." The article, [linked here](#), presents the results from the evaluation of a clinic that integrates classroom teaching, clinical legal practice, multidisciplinary expert consultation, and reflective practice to train practice-ready Guardians ad Litem.

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Dr. John Olawepo, an IHESJR Faculty Scholar, had an article published in the *Tropical Medicine and Health* journal titled "Immune response to hepatitis B vaccine among children under 5 years in Africa: a meta-analysis." This article explored the estimated HBV vaccine seroprotection rate and the associated factors among under-five children who completed a primary series of HBV vaccination in Africa. It is linked [here](#).

## Institute News and Updates

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Congratulations to Dr. John Olawepo for being selected as this year's Bouvé Distinguished Educator Award in the Undergraduate Educator category by The Bouvé Faculty Development and Recognition Committee! Dr. Olawepo was nominated for this award by his students, which showcases the positive impact students experience in response to his teaching.

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Dr. Amantia Ametaj, a research scientist at IHESJR, was recently honored by the Psychiatric Genomic Consortium (PGC) Africa for her work around building capacity in scientific writing for early career researchers in Africa. She co-led a training program, in connection with a large study on schizophrenia and bipolar disorder in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda, where she mentored 13 junior researchers, primarily psychiatrists, in analyzing data from the study and writing academic papers. The program has led to 11 first-author publications by African collaborators to date.

Congratulations to Dr. Lorraine Lacroix-Williamson and Dr. Samantha Meeker from the Population Health PhD program, who will be entering new full-time roles soon. Dr. Lacroix-Williamson will work as a Sexual and Reproductive Health Epidemiologist at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Dr. Meeker will work at Loyola University Chicago as a tenure-track assistant professor of epidemiology for the Parkinson School of Health Sciences and Public Health.

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Congratulations to Christian Herrera, Lab Coordinator for the CHANGE Lab, for getting into a Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program! He will be attending the University of Missouri, Columbia starting in August 2024.

## Spring 2024 PEAK Awardees

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Project-Based Exploration for the Advancement of Knowledge (PEAK) Awards are an opportunity for undergraduate researchers to gain new experiences in research and work with a mentor to advance their goals and projects.

Student: Timothy (Quinn)  
Martin

Project: "Tobacco Control:  
Marrying Public Health and  
Urban Planning"

Mentor: Miki Hong

Student: Nicole Messih

Project: "The Intersection of  
Climate Change and Public  
Safety in Criminal Justice  
Through Research Guides"

Mentor: Dr. Leo Beletsky

Students: Helen Ji and Rosa  
Hahn

Project: "Early Childhood  
Mental Health Families  
Independence, Resilience, and  
Training"

Mentor: Dr. Beth Molnar

Students: Avery Melam and  
Arianna Bhimani

Project: "Power Wheelchair  
Adaptive Team Sport  
Involvement by Adults with  
Disabilities: Experiences, and  
Impact"

Mentor: Dr. Lorna Hayward

Students: Katherine O'Brien  
and Julia Papisadoro

Project: "The Link between HIV,  
Climate Change, and Sexual  
and Gender Minority  
Populations: A Scoping  
Review"

Mentor: Dr. John Olawepo

Student: Noah Brenman

Project: Dementia rural  
Disparity

Mentor: Dr. Nasim Ferdows

Student: Anna Gorham

Project: "Immigration Policy in the US: An Investigation of 287(g) Policies"

Mentor: Dr. Danielle Crookes

Student: Joud Rai

Project: "Salus Populi Evaluation"

Mentors: Dr. Katherine Hazen and Elaine Marshall

Student: Allison Tarbotton

Project: "The Climate and Public Safety (Caps) Project"

Mentor: Dr. Leo Beletsky

Student: Sophia Mohomedally

Project: "Psychiatric Multimorbidity in Older Adults with Atrial Fibrillations"

Mentor: Dr. Benita Bamgbade

Student: Vivian Zhao

Project: "Historic Epidemics in American Cities"

Mentors: Dr. Sara Carr

[Click here](#) for the Undergraduate Research and Fellowships' news article featuring all the awardees and their project details!

## Recent Institute Happenings

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On February 28th, the IHESJR tabled at the Civic Action Fair presented by Northeastern Votes under the Community Service and Civic Engagement office. This event was part of the Social Justice Resource Center's annual Peace and Social Justice Week, and it was the Institute's first time participating. At the fair, the Institute got to interact with students interested in health equity work and the Institute's programming as well as as network with other social justice organizations on campus!





Pictured (left to right): Dr. MyDzung Chu, Assistant Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Public Health and Community Medicine at the Tufts University School of Medicine; Heang Leung Rubin, Principal and Founder of CHIC Community Engagement Consulting; Rebecca Leu, Community Design and Planning Manager at Asian Community Development Corporation; Lily Song, Assistant Professor of Race, Social Justice, and the Built Environment and Faculty Lead of the Anti-displacement Studio at Northeastern; Dr. Carmel Salhi, IHESJR Faculty Scholar

On March 19th, IHESJR Faculty Scholar Dr. Carmel Salhi successfully hosted an event on Community Perseverance and Well-being in Boston's Chinatown as part of the IHESJR's Migration and Health Initiative. The speakers discussed a variety of topics encompassing anti-displacement efforts, green space improvement, creative placemaking/keeping, and community-centered and relational approaches to wellbeing.

