



IE Newsletter

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Institutional Ethnography Division of the
Society for the Study of Social Problems

Colin Hastings, PhD
University of Waterloo
IE Division Chair
c2hastings@uwaterloo.ca

Send correspondence to:
Gina Petonito, PhD
Academic Womxn Reclaim
Your Power
**Correspondence and
Copy Editor**
gpetonito@yahoo.com

Jayne Malenfant, PhD
McGill University
Editor
jayne.malenfant@mcgill.ca

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From the Division Chair: Colin Hastings

Dear IEers,

I hope that 2022 is beginning to wrap up in gentle and rewarding ways for us all. As we look ahead to 2023 and our next annual meeting, I wanted to share some items to look out for:

First, in the coming weeks we will be holding an election for our new Division Chair. We will circulate information about when and how to vote soon!

Second, there are a few ways to get set for the annual meeting this summer! Of course, I'd like to encourage everyone to [submit papers by January 15](#). Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions about this process. I'd also like to especially encourage submissions to the [George W. Smith Graduate Student Paper Competition](#). If you're a grad student, this is an important way to engage with key discussions about IE at SSSP. If you're someone who works with grad students, please circulate the call for the Student Paper Competition widely across your networks. We also invite nominations for the [Dorothy Smith Award for Scholar Activism](#). Nominees can be individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to scholar activism.

Looking forward to the new year, and the next steps in preparing for the 2023 Annual Meeting!

All the best,
Colin

Congratulations Naomi Nichols Dorothy E. Smith Scholar-Activist Award

Naomi Nichols 2022 Dorothy E. Smith Scholar-Activist Award Winner

I want to begin with a little history of this award since in many respects not only does it honor our award winner today, but the award honors our foremothers, Dorothy and Alison, who envisioned an activist tradition fundamental in developing institutional



ethnography. In 2005 in Montreal our outgoing division chair, Alison Griffith, proposed the creation of this award during our business meeting to honor colleagues who have taken seriously the political dimensions of IE as activist scholarship as Dorothy intended in her writing. Members unanimously accepted the proposal and so in 2007, the Institutional Ethnography Division inaugurate the Dorothy E. Smith Award for Scholar-Activism. Following the details worked out by Alison, Marj DeVault, the chair elect, and others, this award was to

recognize the activities of an individual or group who has made substantial contributions to Institutional Ethnographic scholar-activism in either a single project or some longer trajectory of work. The contributions could involve IE research conducted and used for activist ends, or involve activist efforts which have drawn upon or contributed to IE scholarship.

Indeed, our award today honors a colleague who embodies the spirit of this award's founding in her practice as a scholar and as an activist within her community and her university.

On behalf of the Dorothy E. Smith Scholar-Activist Award Committee (comprised of me, Frank Ridzi, and Frank Wang), I am pleased to announce the 2022 winner: Naomi Nichols, Trent University. Naomi joins a very short list of 9 distinguished winners since the award was created in our business meeting in Montreal including Marie Campbell, Ellen Pence, Susan Turner, Roxana Ng, Eric Mykhalovskiy, Gary Kinsman. Praxis International, Frank Ridzi and Frank Wang. Although the committee had several outstanding nominees, the committee unanimously concluded that Naomi's long-term commitment to activism on behalf of youth and those who are homeless, ongoing scholarly publication of IE activist research, and her dedication to making institutional change established a track record that reflected excellence and dedication in the areas of IE scholarship and activism consistent with the award in an exemplary fashion.

Naomi has been engaged in scholar activism throughout the entirety of her academic career, beginning with her exploration of "activist" as an ideological code in her Master's thesis in 2006, under the supervision of Dr. Alison Griffith. Naomi's dissertation centered the voices and experiences of youth living in an Ontario homeless shelter to

uncover and illuminate the many institutional cracks that young people are forced to navigate, including Child Welfare, the shelter system, mental health care and other social systems. Since graduating she has worked tirelessly to advance scholarship on youth inequality, youth justice and community engaged research. She has built relationship with various government officials including representatives within Children's Aid Societies in Ontario and Quebec to advocate on behalf of youth on various issues, including data justice, youth accessibility to their own data held within systems, and the need for extended institutional supports (both academic and financial) for youth who have been in care and are past the age of 18 years.

In recognition of her efforts she was awarded in 2020 the Canada Research Chair in Community Partnered Social Justice.

Naomi's activism is also apparent in the university setting. Not only has Naomi produced a wide range of academic and policy papers on issues related to youth experiences of economic and racial discrimination, barriers to mental health supports for young people, youth homelessness and community-based engaged scholarship including, she has also worked to leverage institutional resources she has received through scholarships and research monies to provide training, internship, and employment opportunities for young people who have experienced homelessness and/or who have had contact with the welfare, Children's Aid, and criminal justice systems.

Finally, Naomi's scholarship and activism involves widening traditional notions of the academy and 'scholarship.' She works to create more seats at the academic table and to include people who have been traditionally excluded from institutions. Those that nominated her noted that she has been a fierce advocate for more inclusive policy within university spaces by supporting diverse learners, including advocating strongly for the creation of scholarships for students from economically challenged backgrounds. They write : "While advocating for this institutional change, Naomi has also personally supported many young people in their interests in going back to school to get their GED, or attend college, as well as supporting young people in entering and surviving graduate school. Her support for young people as emerging academics has empowered many of us who have lived 'on the margins' to begin to see our/themselves as potential scholars and knowledge producers."

We congratulate you, Naomi, for a stellar career as an IE scholar-activist and a well-deserved award.

Suzanne Vaughn, Jayne Malenfort and Alison Fisher, Nominating Committee

IE Mentorship Series

The WG06 IE Mentorship Seminars have been running via ZOOM since October 2021 to discuss IE projects in all phases of implementation. This initiative came after several members of the IE community, particularly those engaging in PhDs on the subject or learning IE for the first time, mentioned they would cherish the opportunity to have a space where they could discuss IE topics, readings, and learn and reflect with others.

Currently, we meet once at month on the third Wednesday of every month from 9:00 to 10:30am Mountain Standard Time (Canada). Regularly attending facilitators include

Janet Rankin as administrative lead, Adriana Suárez Delucchi, and Suzanne Vaughan. Those who have attended the seminar over the last year include researchers who are in the early stages of learning IE, graduate students who are planning and/or writing dissertations, as well as seasoned IEers who are writing research articles or putting together funding grants. Currently we have 43 people on the mentorship distribution list with some 20-25 people attending each monthly zoom gathering.

The online format of the seminars is a great way to make national and international connections and discuss specific topics or problems one might confront in doing IE research. We ask participants to indicate in the chat if they would like to establish further 1:1 contact with those people present. We also facilitate introductions to other members of the IE community who may share topical or methodological areas of interest. It is also nice to see attendees sharing links and recommendations to each other on the chat!

Although the seminars are informal, they are built around core IE “topics” that we (the facilitators) may place onto the seminar agenda. We also invite participants to suggest topics they would like to discuss. Occasionally, we invite guests to discuss their IE journey and research for part of seminar with time for Q and As. Over the last year our guests have included Liza McCoy, Órla Murray, Marj DeVault, David Peacock, and Ann Christin E. Nilsen. For the coming year, we hope to have Tim Diamond, Eric Mykhalovskiy, Liza McCoy, and Marie Campbell, among others.

In January 2023, we will canvas participants about changing the day of the week so that other folks who have not been able to attend can join us.

If you would like to participate in the seminars, please contact Janet Rankin [jmrain@ucalgary.edu.qa] with a short 250-word introductory statement about you and your research. We will send out a zoom link to you.

Call for IE Division Awards

George W. Smith Graduate Student Paper Competition

Deadline: 1/15/23

The [Institutional Ethnography Division](#) is pleased to solicit papers for its 2023 George W. Smith Graduate Student Paper Competition. To be considered, papers should advance institutional ethnography scholarship either methodologically or through a substantive contribution. For an overview of institutional ethnography and the purposes of the IE Division, see <https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1236/m/464>. Authors must be currently enrolled graduate students or have graduated within the last 12 months. Submissions are to be 25 pages long or less, excluding notes, references, and tables, and be submitted in Word-compatible and PDF formats, following the latest APA guidelines. An electronic letter from the student’s supervisor attesting to the lead author’s student status must accompany the submission. The recipient will receive a monetary prize of \$100, a plaque of recognition, student membership, conference registration, and an opportunity to present the winning paper at the 2023 SSSP meetings. The winner of the 2023 paper will be invited to sit on the adjudicating panel for the 2024 paper submissions. Please note that any paper submitted for consideration for the George W. Smith Graduate Student Paper Award must also be submitted through the SSSP [Call for Papers](#) to be presented at the 2023 meeting of the SSSP.

Send submission to: Colin Hastings (Committee Chair) c2hastings@uwaterloo.ca and Janet Rankin jmrankin@ucalgary.edu.ca. Please be aware that a paper submission may only be submitted to one division.

The Dorothy E. Smith Award for Scholar-Activism Deadline 3/31/23

The [Institutional Ethnography Division](#) is pleased to solicit nominations for the 2023 Dorothy E. Smith Award for Scholar-Activism. This award recognizes the activities of an individual or group who has made substantial contributions to institutional ethnographic scholar activism in either a single project or longer trajectory of work. The contributions may involve IE research conducted and used for activist ends, or it may involve activist efforts that have drawn upon or contributed to IE scholarship. The award committee invites members of the Division to send a one-page statement of the nominee to committee chairs, Naomi Nichols (naominichols@trentu.ca), Suzanne Vaughan (suzanne.vaughan@asu.edu), and Frank Ridzi (frankridzi@gmail.com) by March 31, 2023.

Socialist Studies Tributes to Dorothy

William K. Carroll authored “Remembering Dorothy E. Smith: A Socialist Studies Tribute,” with contributions from **Debbie Dergousoff, Daniel Grace, Liza McCoy, Eric Mykhalovskiy, Gary Kinsman, George J. Sefa Dei,** and **Abigail B. Bakan**, in *Socialist Studies*, 16 (1), 2022. You can access the article [here](#). The doi is: <https://doi.org/10.18740/ss27349>

In the same issue, **Himani Banerjee** wrote a separate tribute, “A Tribute to Dorothy E. Smith.” You can access the article [here](#). The doi is: <https://doi.org/10.19840/ss27348>

Welcome New Members

Five new members have joined the IE Division since the publication of our last newsletter. Welcome all!

Andrea De La Barrera Montpellier
Kelly Kay
Pedrom Nasiri
Robert Robinson
Terry Vaughan

Members’ News and Notes

Katherine E. Koralesky, Janet Rankin and **David Fraser** published “The everyday work of One Welfare in animal sheltering and protection,” in *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, Vol. 9, in December 2022, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-022-01455-3>

Gina Petonito will host a Summit, Reclaiming Your Power: Academic Womxn Rise Together on January 27, 28, and 29, 2023 via her group, Academic Womxn Reclaim Your Power. The Summit is aimed at assisting academic womxn at any stage of their career who are dealing with

job precarity. Three main topics will be addressed: non-academic job searching strategies, starting a side business, and work/life/family balance. Recorded interviews with an august group of international experts will be available starting at 10:00 am EST, with live panels convening at 1:00 pm EST. Attending the Summit is free, but registration is required. For registration and any additional information, please contact, Gina at gpetonito@gmail.com. Or join her Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/awryp>.

You can also access free content dealing with non-academic job searching strategies and entrepreneurship for academics at her youtube channel, [youtube.com@ginapetonito](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgINapetonito). Click on the Academic Womxn Reclaim Your Power playlist.

Recent IE Articles Published

A regular feature of the Fall *IE Newsletter* is to compile a sampling of recent publications involving IE for our members. Given that the Fall issue was dedicated to Dorothy Smith, I pushed this feature to the Winter Newsletter.

If you know of any papers, articles, or books that you would like to see posted here in future issues, please contact Gina Petonito at gpetonito@yahoo.com.

Fiona Webster, Laura Connoy, Abhimanyu Sud, Kathleen Rice, Joel Katz, Andrew D. Pinto, Ross Upshur, Craig Dale, (2022) "Chronic Struggle: An institutional ethnography of chronic pain and marginalization," *The Journal of Pain*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpain.2022.10.004>

Órla Meadhbh Murray, (2022) "Text, process, discourse: Doing feminist text analysis in institutional ethnography," *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 25:1, 45-57, DOI: [10.1080/13645579.2020.1839162](https://doi.org/10.1080/13645579.2020.1839162)

Barron, G.R.S., (2022) "How university rankings are made through globally coordinated action: A transnational institutional ethnography in the sociology of quantification." *Higher Education*, DOI: <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.ohio-state.edu/10.1007/s10734-022-00903-y>

E. Stasiulis, B. E. Gibson, F. Webster, & K. M. Boydell, (2022) "The Disjuncture between medication adherence and recovery-centered principles in early psychosis intervention: An institutional ethnography," *Society and Mental Health*, 12(1), 32–48. DOI: [10.1177/21568693211037383](https://doi.org/10.1177/21568693211037383)

E. Kim, (2022). "The global ruling of local crisis intervention: An institutional ethnography of anti-violence work in Kyrgyzstan," *Violence Against Women*, 28(2), 593–616. DOI: [10.1177/1077801220985933](https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801220985933)

Kirsten A. Small, Mary Sidebotham, Jennifer Fenwick, Jenny Gamble, (2022) "The social organisation of decision-making about intrapartum fetal monitoring: An institutional ethnography," *Women and Birth*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wombi.2022.09.004>

Jeanne Mosseray, Nele Aernouts & Michael Ryckewaert, (2022) Institutional ethnography: A transformative mode of inquiry in the renovation of a Brussels high-rise housing estate, *European Planning Studies*, DOI: [10.1080/09654313.2022.2057186](https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2022.2057186)

Paula Kelly, Maggie Quance, Nicole Snow, Caroline Porr, (2022) Using institutional ethnography to explicate the everyday realities of nurses' work in labor and delivery, *Global Qualitative Nursing Research*, 9, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/23333936221137576>

Susanne Vossmer, (2022) How (non)discriminatory are the Institute of Group Analysis and group analysis? An institutional ethnography study, *Group Analysis*, 55(2), DOI: <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.ohio-state.edu/10.1177/05333164221083800>

Rachel Fishberg, (2022) "Thinking with transnational institutional ethnography: Moving towards spatially conscious methods for studying geographically dispersed people and Institutions," *International Journal of Qualitative Methods* 21, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/16094069221097779>

Alexa R. Ferdinands, Tara-Leigh F. McHugh, Kate Storey, Kim D. Raine, (2022) "Reflections on applying institutional ethnography in participatory weight stigma research with young women," *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 21, DOI: [10.1177/16094069221100939](https://doi.org/10.1177/16094069221100939)

Madeline Crozier, Erin Workman, (2022) "Discourse-Based interviews in institutional ethnography: Uncovering the tacit knowledge of peer tutors in the writing center," *Composition Forum*, 49

Devaka Kumad Acharya, Kittikorn Nilmanat, Umaporn Boonyasopun, (2022) "Textual organization of hemodialysis nursing practice: An Institutional Ethnography" *Journal of Nepal Health Research Council*, 20, DOI: [10.33314/jnhrc.v20i01.4023](https://doi.org/10.33314/jnhrc.v20i01.4023)

SSSP in Philadelphia August 18-20, 2023

Remember: All papers must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time) on January 15, 2023, to be considered.



Photo by Heidi Kaden on Unsplash

CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Activist Cafe: Community Activists and Scholars in Dialogue-THEMATIC

Co-Sponsors: Community Research and, Development; Conflict, Social Action, and Change, Institutional Ethnography

Co-Organizers: Thomas P. Pineross-Shields, [Thomas Pinerossshields@uml.edu]
And Frank Ridzi [frankridzi@gmail.com]

Same Problems, Same Tired Terms: Investigating the Social Organization of Carceral Responses-THEMATIC

Co-Sponsors: Crime and Juvenile Delinquency; Institutional Ethnography
Co-Organizers: Miltonette Olivia Craig, [moc006@shsu.edu] and Christopher P. Dum, [cdum@kent.edu]

Institutional Ethnographies Across the Life Course

Co-Sponsors: Educational Problems; Institutional Ethnography
Organizer: Naomi Nichols, [naominichols@trentu.ca]

Institutional Ethnographies of Changing Socio-technical Relations

Co-Sponsors: Environment and Technology, Institutional Ethnography
Organizer: Katherine E. Koralesky, [katie.koralesky@ubc.ca]

Institutional Ethnographies of Health and Wellness

Co-Sponsors: Health, Health Policy, and Health Services; Institutional Ethnography
Organizer: Colin Hastings, [c2hastings@uwaterloo.ca]

Exploring Words as People's Practices

Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography
Organizer: Cheryl Zurawski, [czurawski6@gmail.com]

New Directions in Institutional Ethnography

Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography
Organizer: Janet M. Rankin, [jmrankin@ucalgary.ca]

Tracing the Social Organization of Recurring Social Problems

Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography
Organizer: Lauren Eastwood, [eastwole@plattsburgh.edu]

Intertextuality. Theory, and the Social Organization of Knowledge

Co-Sponsors: Institutional Ethnography and Social Problems Theory
Co-Organizers: Colin Hastings, [c2hastings@uwaterloo.ca] and Jared Del Rosso, [jared.delrosso@du.edu]

CRITICAL DIALOGUE: The Practicalities of Going Against the Grain-THEMATIC

Co-Sponsors: Institutional Ethnography, Youth, Aging, and the Life Course
Organizer: Colin Hastings, [c2hastings@uwaterloo.ca]