

Toba Bryant, PhD

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences at University of Ontario Institute of Technology
Oshawa, ON, CA

Social scientist urges improved employment and housing policies to enhance health and social well-being

Description

Precarious employment is a slippery slope that can lead to homelessness. In today's shifting economic climate, affordable housing is becoming increasingly out of reach for many individuals and young families. An Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences (FSH), Toba Bryant, PhD, is passionate about tackling issues with the greatest community impact, including housing and employment. Her collaborative research with colleagues in the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities (FSSH) explores Pathways Into and Out of Homelessness in Durham Region. The aim is to examine the causes of homelessness, and find ways to improve housing policies, while drawing parallels between affected communities across the country.

She is also collaborating with FHS and FHSS colleagues, Unifor Retirees' Local 222 (Oshawa) and United Way Durham Region on a major community quality-of-life study in Oshawa, Ontario, following the automotive hub's recent downturn. Her research examines the impact of precarious employment including a lack of job security and benefits on quality of life within the community. She intends to drive government and employer policy and program development to improve job stability and address community concerns for impacted families.

A social scientist, Dr. Bryant encourages students to examine the role of social determinants in health outcomes and health policy. Author of *Health Policy in Canada*, and co-editor of *Staying Alive: Critical Perspectives on Health, Illness, and Health Care*, she has published book chapters and articles on policy change, housing and health, and women's health; and serves as General Editor of *Women's Health and Urban Life*.

Growing up in a political family piqued her interest in public policy; and inspired her focus at university. At the University of Toronto (U of T), Dr. Bryant earned her Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Political Science and her Master of Social Work. Early in her career she worked on urban health research and policy projects in the voluntary sector, before pursuing her Doctorate in Social Work at U of T.

Before joining UOIT in 2012, Dr. Bryant was an Assistant Professor of Health Studies in the Department of Social Sciences at U of T, and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at York University in Toronto. She held post-doctoral fellowships with the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, and the Institute for Health Studies at York University.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Employment Services, Health and Wellness, Housing, Public Policy, Research, Social Services, Women

Topics

Health and Social Policy Change, Income, Housing, Social Determinants of Health, Welfare State Analysis, Women's Health

Affiliations

Past Talks

Reducing Food Insecurity in the Liberal Welfare State: What Can Be Done in the Absence of State Action?

Advancing Food Insecurity Research in Canada, Toronto: PROOF “ Research to Identify Policy Options to Reduce Food Insecurity

Immigration and the Politics of the Welfare State: A World Tour

European Public Health Association Section for Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health: Sixth European Conference on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health

Placing the Social Determinants of Health on the Public Policy Agenda

Canadian Public Health Association Annual Conference

Take a Sad Song and Make it Better: Promoting Health Equity Through Political Engagement and Policy Change

Association of Ontario Health Centres Conference: Shift the Conversation: Community Health

Relevance of Policy Change Models to Tackle Health Inequalities

Social Policy and Health Inequalities, Centre des sciences Pierre-Dansereau

Gender Dynamics in Globalization and Health

Globalization and the Health of Canadians Colloquium

Economic Globalization and the Social Determinants of Urban Health: European Policy Approaches and Their Implications for Canada

Globalization and the Health of Canadians Colloquium

How Can Theories of Public Policy Inform Our Health Promotion Activities?

Health Promotion Research: An International Forum “ State of the Art and Directions for the Future

Education

University of Toronto

PhD Social Work

University of Toronto

MSW Social Work

Accomplishments

General Editor, Women's Health and Urban Life

This critical, feminist, and social science, peer-reviewed journal addresses a wide range of topics that directly or indirectly affect both the physical and mental health of girls, teenage and adult women living in urban or urbanizing pockets of the world.

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Bryant was awarded a two-year post-doctoral fellowship to address the needs of a diverse, multi-ethnic, marginalized and disadvantaged population across the lifespan, from newborn to the elderly.

Post-Doctoral Fellow, York Institute for Health Research, York University

Formerly known as the Institute for Health Studies, this centre strives to mobilize community engaged and policy relevant health equity research across disciplines and around the world. Dr. Bryant's two-year post-doctoral fellowship focused on critical health research and social justice issues.

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