

# **Tyler Frederick, PhD**

**Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities at University of Ontario Institute of Technology**

Oshawa, ON, CA

Breaking the cycle and stigma of youth homelessness through inspired knowledge mobilization in Canada

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## **Description**

Inequality is a major source of offending and human suffering. For example, in Canada, an estimated 47,000 youth between the ages 16 to 24 experience homelessness each year, and as a result face barriers to education, income support, paid employment and accommodation. Further, a significant number of these youth will experience mental health issues, creating even greater obstacles to overcome. Understanding this inequality and its connection to crime and mental health, particularly among youth, as well as establishing community partnerships and research collaborations to help break these cycles, drives the work of Tyler Frederick, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities. Buoyed by the resiliency of these youth, he draws light to the complicated issues surrounding homelessness and poverty and develops key initiatives to affect change.

Before joining UOIT in 2014, Dr. Frederick held a two-year post-doctoral fellowship with the Centre of Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto where he conducted research on the risks and vulnerabilities of young people as they exit homelessness. The results of this study were shared through a participant-created comic book called a Long Way to Go. As an Affiliate Scientist with CAMH's Complex Mental Illness Research Program, and in partnership with Covenant House, LOFT Community Services and SKETCH, he is currently creating and evaluating an intervention to support young people exiting homelessness to maintain their housing.

His novel approach to knowledge mobilization is also reflected in his involvement with two documentary films: Hope Heights, an award-winning film that challenges the negative representations of one of Toronto's targeted neighbourhoods; and Inclusive Spaces, a short film that spotlights businesses that model inclusivity for people with serious mental illness and encourages others to follow their lead.

Dr. Frederick's research also focuses on sexual victimization and reporting experiences of students, faculty and staff on campus. He aims to develop best practices for police services and post-secondary institutions to deal jointly with issues of campus sexual violence and harassment.

Fascinated by the processes of social construction, and inspired by the sociological lens, Dr. Frederick completed his Bachelor of Arts at the University of Calgary, and both his Master of Arts and Doctorate in Sociology from the University of Toronto.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Education/Learning, Law Enforcement, Mental Health Care, Research, Social Services

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## **Topics**

Criminology, Crime and Deviance, Homelessness, Youth, Research Methods, Social Psychology, Mental Health, Gender and Sexuality

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## **Affiliations**

Canadian Sociological Association, American Sociological Association, The American Society of Criminology

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## **Past Talks**

**Mental Health, Well-Being, and the Transition Away from Homelessness**  
2014 Annual Meeting of Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness

**Defining Community for Persons with Psychosis**  
2014 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Psychological Association

**Exiting Street Life: Youth Trajectories out of Homelessness**  
Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness National Conference

**Homeless and Fabulous: Outline of a Field Approach to Street Life**  
2011 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association

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## **Education**

**University of Toronto**  
PhD Sociology

**University of Toronto**  
MA Sociology

**University of Calgary**  
BA Sociology

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## **Accomplishments**

**Weston Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)**

Dr. Frederick's post-doctoral fellowship focused on two projects, a longitudinal and mixed method study of the risks and vulnerabilities of 51 young people in two major Canadian cities as they exited homelessness. As an Affiliate Scientist in CAMH's Complex Mental Illness Research Program, he continues to work collaboratively with CAMH, Covenant House, LOFT Community Services and SKETCH to design and evaluate an intervention to support the post-housing transition.

**Assistant Producer, Hope Heights Documentary Film**

Official Selection at the Regent Park Film Festival, Hope Heights received the Gold Award at the International Movie Awards.

**Inclusive Spaces Initiative, Documentary Short Film**

This documentary short includes inclusive spaces certificates, and KT presentations at Parkdale Community Centre and Wellesley Institute to share findings of the Community Participation Project and to promote public awareness of the need for spaces that are welcoming for people with serious mental illness including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

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