



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

Mental Health and Addictions

Algoma
UNIVERSITY

April 25 - 26, 2024

Living in Pandemic Worlds: An Intersectional Perspectives

Abstract

The International Conference on Mental Health and Addictions would like to invite abstracts from everyone to discuss and critically reflect on new ways of living in a world of Pandemics and how that affects mental health and addictions. We are now in a world that has been declared 'free' of the COVID-19 pandemic (WHO May, 5, 2023). The consequences of this narrative of post-pandemic suggests that the marginalized communities that were impacted in extreme ways should now somehow return to pre-pandemic. However, we disagree. There is evidence that we will continue to encounter diseases like COVID-19 on a global scale and more than this we should be learning from the lessons of COVID-19 about how the pandemic has affected marginalized communities' mental health and increasing addiction in ways that are unprecedented (Javed et al, 2020; Ji, 2022; Zhai, et al, 2023). Black, Indigenous, Asian, and other marginalized communities have faced the pandemic in ways that continue to affect their mental health and addiction in disproportionate ways (Gaynor & Wilson, 2020; Hutchison, 2022; Severinsen, et al, 2021; Tamagawa,2023; Zhai, et al, 2023). This means that on top of prevailing historical colonial trauma in Canada (Jean-Pierre, & James, 2020; TRC, 2015; Walker; 2008), these communities must work more towards healing from the impact of COVID19 on their mental health and addiction. On top of that, we are now being invited to prepare ourselves for a world that is pandemic. While most marginalized communities will have to contend with what happened before and during the Covid 19, they will now have to imagine new ways of living with future pandemics. This is not only challenging but also provides an opportunity to employ new ways of coping with pandemics in ways that are not only quantitative but ethically responsible. This means our efforts to curb future pandemics as suggested by the World Health Organization are limited if we fail to consider histories, values, and realities of the most marginalized communities. In this regard, a new methodology of approving scientific measures of curbing future pandemics needs to be centered towards meeting the holistic socio-cultural and economic health of communities in the age of pandemics. This will ensure that not only do we deal with curbing the spread of the current and future pandemics, but we do that in ways that are ethical, balanced, and sustainable. This conference therefore comes at a time when as a world we need to engage in critical and ethical ways to identify multiple ways of living with pandemic. The call is for an intersectional imagination of our worlds in ways that remember and employ subjugated ways of lives as a way of qualifying the scientific quantification of pandemics.

Objective/aims of the conference.



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This conference therefore invites you for ethical engagement meant to work closely with communities that continue to suffer from mental health and addictions before and after COVID19, to start asking questions of how we need to create capacity building, mobilize knowledge, and take social responsibility and action toward preparing marginalized communities in a world of pandemic. We invite communities, governments, policy makers and scholars to tell their stories in ways that will help qualify our pandemic health indexing. To do this, we invite you to answer the following questions in your presentation:

- a. How has COVID-19 affected marginalized communities in terms of mental health and addiction?
- b. How have health measures to curb COVID-19 helped or exacerbated mental health and addictions among marginalized communities?
- c. How can scientific measures to address pandemic embrace local knowledge, and capacities towards flattening the pandemic curves?
- d. How can the government and communities prepare for new normals of world pandemics?

Themes:

The theme of the conferences include the following. Please locate a theme provided below that suits your presentation:

- ❖ Climate change, pandemics, and mental health
- ❖ Social media and pandemics
- ❖ Intersectional pandemics and world valuation
- ❖ Pandemics and social anxieties
- ❖ Protocol and governmentality of pandemics and mental health and addictions
- ❖ Substance use and harm reduction in pandemics.
- ❖ Neoliberalism and profit intensification of pandemics
- ❖ Social justice in the age of pandemics
- ❖ Anti-racism and pandemics
- ❖ Agency and resiliency
- ❖ Schooling and education



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❖ Healing and spirituality/ies

Date: Start date: August 31 2023

Deadline: December 31 2023

Please send your abstract to: icmha@algonau.ca

Location: Attend in person or virtually (remotely)

Algoma University – [Brampton Campus](#)

Creebank Site, 5110 Creebank Road Mississauga, ON

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