

## IPAF 4900: Research Experience Opportunity

**Project Title: The relationship between health and ethnicity in Canada**

**Term: Winter 2019**

**Supervisor: Mehdi Ammi**

**Unit: SPPA**

### **Description of project:**

While there is a large literature on health disparities in the US, documenting a health gap between Whites, Blacks and Latinos, the relationship between ethnicity and health is understudied in Canada. This may be explained by the country's multiculturalist values, as well as the research focus on immigration and health, rather than ethnicity and health. Since results from the US cannot be easily transferred to the Canadian context, the purpose of this project is to document how much is known on the health-ethnicity gradient in Canada. Disparities between whites and visible minorities, as well as with Indigenous people, will be explored. Research assistance is needed to conduct a systematic review of the literature on the health-ethnicity gradient in Canada. While the focus will be on empirical findings, the review will also consider theoretical factors explaining the health gap (or lack thereof) between ethnic groups, carefully distinguishing factors between relevant categories (e.g., Blacks, South-Asian, and Indigenous), including, but not limited to lifetime stressors such as racism, housing conditions or difference in access to healthcare.

**Number of students required: 1**

### **Research duties:**

*The research duties consist of (1) devising the systematic literature search strategy, following PRISMA best practices (2) documenting selection methods for the retained studies, (3) interpreting findings, with special attention to empirical differences in health status and healthcare use by ethnicity (whites vs. relevant visible minorities grouping vs. Indigenous) in Canadian context and (4) analyzing the theoretical contributors to the health-ethnicity gradient.*

*The successful candidate will be required to keep track of the hours spent on the research duties, and not spend more than 65 hours per term on these activities.*

### **Learning and reflection activities:**

*Learning and reflection activities will include the keeping of a weekly journal documenting the work and research conducted (1-2 page submitted weekly), regular meetings and communication with me and writing of a final report summarizing the findings of the research. This final report (5000 words + tables and figures) will also reflect on the policy implications to address health inequalities.*

### **Learning outcomes:**

*The student will (1) further his/her ability to work more independently, (2) learn more about the important topic of health disparities by ethnicity, (3) learn about and gain increased familiarity and confidence with systematic literature review methodology, and (4) develop an ability to summarize and communicate findings from a systematic literature review clearly and effectively. In addition to those, the student will get firsthand experience on the process of academic research.*

**Evaluation Criteria:**

*Weekly journal – 20 percent (best 10 out of up to 12 journals, worth 2 percent each)*

*Weekly meeting – 10 percent*

*Data collection and documentation – 20 percent. Due at regular intervals throughout the term.*

*Final report – 50 percent – due the last day of class.*

**Skills or knowledge required:**

*Requirements:*

- *A course on health or health policy such as PADM 4221 (or equivalent).*
- *A course on ethnicity/race such as SOCI 4020 (or equivalent).*
- *An ability to write well and to take initiative.*

**Any required health and safety training: None**

**Other considerations: None**

**Application instructions:**

*Participants are selected on the basis of merit and fit with the research project. Please submit a CV, transcript, and cover letter indicating why you are interested in and qualified for this research experience to the Director of the School of Public Policy and Administration, Dr. Graeme Auld ([graeme.auld@carleton.ca](mailto:graeme.auld@carleton.ca)), with "IPAF 4900 Winter 2019 Application – Dr. Ammi" in the subject of the email. Only students with a GPA of 9.5 or higher and at least third year honours standing will be considered.*