

INVITED SPEAKERS

Zoua M. Vang



Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, McGill University
Associate Member, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, McGill University

Zoua obtained her PhD in Sociology from Harvard University. She also spent two years as a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Sociology and Population Studies Center at the University of Pennsylvania before moving to Canada to start her position at McGill. Zoua's research encompasses (i) migration and health, (ii) Indigenous maternal infant health, and (iii) discrimination as a social determinant of health and well-being. Since 2015, she has been collaborating with Cree and Inuit health boards, organizations, and communities in Quebec on several projects related to childbirth evacuation, perinatal depression, and maternal-infant wellbeing.

Gail Baikie



Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Dalhousie University

Gail Baikie is an Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Gail, of Inuit-Settler heritage, was raised in Labrador. She specializes in Indigenizing and decolonizing research, education and professional practices. Areas of research include critical reflection methods, cross-worldview praxes, the well-being of urban Inuit, and the implications of natural resource development on marginalized women in northern communities. Prior to an academic career beginning in 2003, Gail had fifteen years of professional practice experience mostly in field of the social, cultural and political well-being of Indigenous communities in Atlantic Canada.

Kaberi Dasgupta, MD, MSc



Associate Professor of Medicine, McGill University
Director and Scientist, Centre for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE), Research Institute of the MUHC

Dr. Dasgupta is a physician scientist with a research and clinical focus on diabetes prevention and management through health behavior change and self-management support attentive to contextual factors. Her work is supported by grants from the CIHR, FRQS, Diabetes Canada, the Lawson and Medavie Foundations, and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. She has published over 100 peer reviewed articles and has disseminated her work extensively through print, radio, television, and digital media. Her work is team-based, relying on multidisciplinary teams that include patient partners.

Anne Anderman, MD, DPhil, CCFP, FRCPC



Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine
Associate Member, Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health
Research Associate in Public Health and Primary Health Care, St Mary's Research Centre

Dr. Anne Andermann is the founding director of the CLEAR Collaboration that aims to help frontline health workers address the underlying social causes of poor health through a combination of direct patient care, referral and advocacy for larger social change. She has previously worked on research capacity strengthening for low- and middle-income countries at the World Health Organization in Geneva. She has also been a visiting professor in the USA, Brazil and Germany. Dr. Andermann was recently awarded the Canadian Rising Stars in Global Health award from Grand Challenges Canada and the Clinical Research Scholars award from FRQ-S.

François Bouffard



Associate Professor and William Dawson Scholar, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, McGill University

François Bouffard is Associate Professor, William Dawson Scholar and Associate Chair (Undergraduate Affairs) in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at McGill University. His research is concerned with the operations and planning of electric power and energy systems, focusing on their reliability, control, economic and regulatory aspects. His most recent research has dealt with the elaboration of decision support tools for low-carbon networks and the exploitation of the flexibility potential of energy storage assets and demand response as well as energy system integration.

Nicolò Giordano, Ph.D.



Institut national de la recherche scientifique – Centre Eau Terre Environnement, Québec

Nicolò Giordano earned a PhD in Earth Sciences at the University of Torino (Italy) in 2015, discussing a thesis about ground thermal energy storage systems. He is currently working as Post-doc fellow at the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS) in Québec City. His main research activity focuses on the evaluation of the geothermal energy potential in the northern Québec territory of Inuit and Cree peoples, in the framework of the Northern Geothermal Potential research chair awarded to Jasmin Raymond. He is a member of the Centre d'études nordiques (CEN) and of Geothermal Canada.

INVITED SPEAKERS

Jeffrey McKenzie

Chair, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, McGill University



Dr. Jeffrey McKenzie is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at McGill University. Jeffrey is a hydrogeologist with research focused on cryohydrogeology – the study of the interactions between climate change and groundwater in cold regions. Jeff’s research couples numerical modeling with field research sites in the glaciated Andes in South America and permafrost regions of the North. Jeffrey received a BSc from McGill University, and a PhD from Syracuse University. He was a Byrd Polar Research Fellow at The Ohio State University before becoming a faculty member at McGill University.

Bethany T. Neilson

Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Utah Water Research Laboratory, Utah State University



Bethany Neilson is an Associate Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Her current research centers on developing new data collection and modeling approaches to quantify groundwater/surface water interactions and the associated influences on instream water quality and temperature regimes. Her research has spanned desert rivers, arctic river systems, low gradient agricultural rivers, and high gradient mountain basins. Many of her projects focus on advancing our understanding of dominant processes in natural systems, however, her research group also seeks to find ways to apply the resulting knowledge and tools to assist in watershed management decisions.

Melissa McKinney

Assistant Professor, Department of Natural Resource Sciences, McGill University



Melissa McKinney received her BSc degree (Chemistry) from the University of British Columbia, her MS degree (Chemistry and Biochemistry) from the University of Windsor at the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research (GLIER), and her PhD (Chemistry, with Specialization in Chemical and Environmental Toxicology) with a Canada Graduate Scholarship from Carleton University at the National Wildlife Research Centre. She held an NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship at Dalhousie University (Department of Biology), followed by a Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Windsor (GLIER). She began as an Assistant Professor at the University of Connecticut in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, before returning to Canada to join McGill’s Department of Natural Resource Sciences to research environmental change and ecological stressors facing Arctic marine fish and mammals.

Magali Houde

Research Scientist, Aquatic Contaminants Research Division, Environment and Climate Change Canada



Magali Houde has a Ph.D. in Environmental Biology from the University of Guelph. She has joined Environment and Climate Change Canada as a research scientist in 2010. Her research aims to evaluate the distribution of contaminants in the environment and their effects on the health of aquatic species. She is actively involved in the Northern Contaminants Program assessing trends of contaminants in country foods from the Canadian Arctic. Her work also focuses on outreach to Inuit communities and Indigenous knowledge. In addition to managing a research team, Magali also co-supervise the work of graduate students as an adjunct professor at the University of Quebec in Montreal.