



Project Code: Hamza B

APD 1210 RESEARCH PRACTICUM COURSE

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS 2026-27

FALL/WINTER

Name and Title: Rya Buckley, PhD Candidate & Chloe Hamza, Associate Professor

Lab Website: <https://thecarelab.ca>

TITLE OF RESEARCH PROJECT: Experiences of Black postsecondary students who have engaged in nonsuicidal self-injury

NUMBER OF STUDENT PLACES AVAILABLE: 1-2

PRIMARY MODE OF RESEARCH PLACEMENT PARTICIPATION (circle one option and describe):

☐ *IN PERSON*

☐ *REMOTE (ONLINE)*

☒ *HYBRID/FLEXIBLE*

Please describe: The position will include a mix of in-person and online involvement. Lab meetings are held regularly online, but duties may include a mix of online work and on campus activities.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY: Nonsuicidal self-injury (NSSI) is known to be prevalent among postsecondary students. It is defined as the direct and deliberate damage or alteration of one's own bodily tissue without suicidal intent and for purposes not socially or culturally sanctioned. Unfortunately, most of the current research concerning NSSI involves predominantly white samples, which does not match the current population of Canadian postsecondary students. Thus, the present study seeks to address this gap in knowledge by looking at the particular experiences of Black postsecondary students who engage in NSSI using both quantitative and qualitative methods. A quantitative study will be conducted examining the prevalence of NSSI among Black students in a large, existing sample of university students. Correlations between NSSI engagement and stress, mental health symptoms, and demographic variables will also be examined. Secondly, a qualitative study will be conducted with Black undergraduate students (18-25 years old) from Ontario postsecondary institutions who have engaged in NSSI at some point in their lifetime. They will complete a demographic and NSSI questionnaire and a one-hour virtual semi-structured interview. The interview will examine the NSSI behaviours and help-seeking experiences of these students. Demographic data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics and interviews will be analyzed using reflexive thematic analysis. Input from a student advisory committee will inform the interpretation and dissemination of results. Findings will help support the development of culturally relevant services and resources for Black postsecondary students who self-injure.



DESCRIPTION OF STUDENT PARTICIPATION: The practicum student will participate in data analysis of qualitative interviews using reflexive thematic analysis. Students will gain background on NSSI research and Black mental health research as well as training and experience with reflexive thematic analysis. Students will have the opportunity to analyze a subset of the interviews and/or demographic data using qualitative and/or quantitative methods to answer more specific questions about NSSI experiences among certain Black student groups (e.g., international students, LGBTQ+ students). Students will also have the opportunity to contribute to journal articles and conference presentations and gain experience with academic writing, publishing, and presenting.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED SKILLS/BACKGROUND (OPTIONAL): It is preferred that students have lived experience or some background working with marginalized student populations. Experience with qualitative research would be an asset, but is not required.

DAY AND TIMES OF LAB MEETINGS: Lab meetings typically occur on a monthly basis on Fridays, but timing will be confirmed in the Fall. Project-specific meetings will likely occur weekly; day to be determined with student.