



Code: Gillis

APD 1210 RESEARCH PRACTICUM COURSE

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS 2023-24 FALL/WINTER

Name and Title: Dr. Joseph Roy Gillis, Associate Professor & Principal Investigator

Lab Website: <https://www.covid-19-stigma-reduction.org/>

TITLE OF RESEARCH PROJECT: Responding to the Stigma, Fear, Discrimination and Misinformation Related to the COVID-19 Disease Outbreak: A Novel Analyses and Intervention for a Novel Coronavirus

NUMBER OF STUDENT PLACES AVAILABLE: 2

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

☐ IN PERSON

☒ REMOTE (ONLINE)

☐ HYBRID/FLEXIBLE

Students will conduct their proposed research practicum project remotely. Proposed projects may include a scoping review or an analysis of pre-existing qualitative or quantitative data.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY: The current study is a CIHR-funded study that examines COVID-19-related experiences of stigma and discrimination, misinformation on social media and correlates of vaccine hesitancy. The first stage involves an analysis of social media postings (on Twitter) containing stigmatizing content against people of East Asian descent. The second stage involves qualitative interviews among community members and leaders that are disproportionately affected by COVID-19, such as East Asian, African/Caribbean/Black, South Asian, Indigenous, Middle Eastern/North African, LGBTQIA2S+ and immigrant communities in the Greater Toronto Area. The third stage is a nationally representative quantitative survey. The final stage will consist of interventions aimed to reduce COVID-19-related stigma, discrimination, misinformation, and vaccine hesitancy which will be delivered online.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDENT PARTICIPATION: Students may be involved with various aspects of the project including qualitative data analysis (using NVivo), survey development, quantitative analyses, participant recruitment, scoping/systematic reviews and other relevant work. They will have flexible schedules and are expected to commit 8-10 hours per week from September to April. Students will have opportunities to expand and strengthen their skillset in research through training and practice. All work will be done remotely.



DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED SKILLS/BACKGROUND (OPTIONAL):

We encourage you to apply if you meet some but not all of the preferred skills that are outlined:

- Knowledge of and experience conducting qualitative research. Experience with conducting interviews is an asset.
- Knowledge of and experience conducting systematic and/or scoping reviews
- Knowledge of and experience with survey development through Qualtrics and/or other platforms
- A working understanding of issues relating to stigma and discrimination towards marginalized groups.
- Interest in topics and issues related to vaccine hesitancy and community outreach efforts
- Excellent communications skills.
- Strong writing and editing skills
- Ability to work as part of a multidisciplinary research team.
- Students from underrepresented communities and communities of focus for this study, such as students of Asian, African/Caribbean/Black, Indigenous, Middle Eastern/North African, LGBTQIA2S+ and immigrant backgrounds, are encouraged to apply.

DAY AND TIMES OF LAB MEETINGS: Bi-weekly individual/group meetings (flexible-based on availability). Meetings will be conducted over Zoom.