

Women, violence and vulnerability contexts

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Community-University Research Alliances (CURA) program

Abstract

The Community-University Research Alliances (CURA) named *Women, violence and vulnerability contexts* brings together *Université de Montréal, Université Laval* and many partners from different service sectors. See listing at the end of this document.

Main Goal

The *Women, violence and vulnerability contexts* CURA's main goal is to attain a better comprehension of women's victimization in vulnerability context experiences in order to produce relevant knowledge on scientific grounds as well as improving policies and community services.

Specific Goals

More specifically, the CURA pursues 3 specific goals that are linked with the CRI-VIFF's research, training and knowledge transmission objectives.

- 1) *Research*: conceiving and carrying out, in collaboration between researchers and community partners, projects on women's who undergo violence in vulnerability contexts realities. These works will be carried out through specific vulnerability contexts linked to victimisation experiences, their consequences, impediments encountered to better protect themselves, how they cope and get by, as well as on the interventions, social policies and programs aimed to help women.
- 2) *Training*: providing training to the future researchers and professionals, on family violence and violence against women in vulnerability contexts by creating a stimulant environment where students and community workers benefit from diversified, rich and multidisciplinary expertises, as well from researchers as from community partners.
- 3) *Knowledge transfer and dissemination*: providing knowledge transfer and dissemination on regional, national and international foregrounds. Besides the traditional academic dissemination mediums (papers, scientific articles, conferences, etc.), other mediums will be developed jointly with the partners and will be adapted to concerned community services (file synopsis, working seminars, etc.).

Research axes

The research axes are linked to these vulnerability contexts:

1. *Violence in multicultural and migration contexts*: immigrant women, refugees, women in ethnocultural context, women trafficking, immigrant domestic-aid, etc.
2. *Violence in risk-environment context*: Sex workers (some entangled in women trafficking nexus), AIDS-HIV infected women, women taking part in gangsterism, drug-addicted women, etc.
3. *Violence in autonomy limited contexts*: women with physical functional limitations [“disabled women”], women with mental health issues, women with intellectual deficiencies, elder women in autonomy loss contexts, etc.
4. *Violence in particular life stage contexts*: teenagers in dating relationships, elder couple relationships, relationship breakage and child custody, etc.
5. *Violence in native women’s life contexts*: with or without native status, living inside or outside native’s reserves.

Research questions

During the research process, this CURA will address these questions:

- 1) Why are some women in vulnerability context more at risk of victimisation than others and how can we diminish the risk?
- 2) What is the nature of the violence sustained by women?
- 3) What are the obstacles for seeking help and aid resources with which women must cope to protect themselves and to put an end to violence?
- 4) What are the specific impacts of violence on these women?
- 5) How must we transform or adapt the interventions and social policies addressed to these women?
- 6) Can we, in order for knowledge not to be fragmented according to targeted groups, develop a model of knowledge integration that would allow better understanding of women’s experiences when they are in vulnerability contexts?

Research methodology

The conceptual frame of the *Women, Violence and vulnerability context* is inspired from the intersectional approach and the *social vulnerability* concept.

Academic partners:

RINFRET-RAYNOR Maryse, BATES Karine, BEAULIEU Marie, BERTEAU Ginette, BILGE Sirma, BOUSQUET Marie-Pierre, BRASSARD Renée, COUSINEAU Marie-Marthe, DAVIES Linda, DESROSIERS Julie, DUBÉ Myriam, FERNET Mylène, GAUTHIER Sonia, HARPER Elizabeth, HÉBERT Martine, JACCOUD Mylène, KRANE Julia, LACROIX Marie, LANGEVIN Louise, LAVOIE Francine, LAZURE Ginette, MONTMINY Lyse, NOËL Lina, NORMANDEAU Sylvie, OTIS Joanne, OXMAN-MARTINEZ Jacqueline, RODRIGUEZ DEL BARRIO Lourdès

Community partners¹:

Alliance des communautés culturelles pour l'égalité dans la santé et les services sociaux (ACCESSS); Centre des travailleurs et travailleuses immigrants; Association québécoise d'établissements de santé et de services sociaux (AQESSS); Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes; Centre de santé et de services sociaux Cavendish; CLSC René-Cassin; Centre de santé et de services sociaux de la Vieille-Capitale; Coalition des organismes communautaires québécois de lutte contre le sida (COCQ-Sida); Comité d'aide aux réfugiés (CAR); Confédération des organismes de personnes handicapées du Québec (COPHAN); Côté Cour; Fédération de ressources d'hébergement pour femmes violentées et en difficulté du Québec (FRHFVDQ); Femmes autochtones du Québec Inc. (FAQ); Maison Communautaire Missinak; Maison pour femmes immigrantes; Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles (MIC); Point de Repères; Relais-femmes; Table de concertation en violence conjugale de Montréal

¹ You will find a glossary in the "Partner's" section for English translation.