

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES THROUGH RESEARCH

PRESENTER BIOS

Marcus Shantz, President Conrad Grebel University College

Marcus Shantz studied at Conrad Grebel University College and University of Waterloo from 1991-1995 graduating with a Honours BA in History and Religious Studies, with a minor in Peace and Conflict Studies. After graduating Marcus served with Mennonite World Conference in Strasbourg, France from 1995-1997. In 1998 Marcus began studies at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law, graduating in 2001 with a J.D. He was called to the Bar in 2002 and practiced law at Goodmans LLP in Toronto. He returned to Waterloo Region to serve as President of Mercedes Corp., in St. Jacobs until coming to Conrad Grebel as President October 1, 2017.

Justin Cooper, Ph.D. Political Science, Christian Higher Education Canada (CHEC)

Justin D. Cooper is Executive Director of CHEC. He joined CHEC after serving for 30 years with Redeemer University College, including the last 16 years as President. Justin received his MA and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Toronto and his BA from Trinity Christian College in Chicago. Justin is an author and speaker, with articles in both scholarly and popular publications. He and his wife, Jessie, live in Dundas, have two married sons and eight grandchildren and attend the First Christian Reformed Church.

Joanna Ochocka, Ph.D. Sociology, Centre for Community Based Research

Joanna Ochocka has led community based research and knowledge mobilization activities for over 20 years. She has been a principle investigator in +80 research studies involving multiple partnerships and has overseen other 300 collaborative research projects focusing on social change and innovation. Joanna sees research as a catalyst for social innovation, public policy improvements, and promoting knowledge democracy in which local knowledge is valued in building local solutions. She is adjunct associate professor at University of Waterloo and an active teacher, facilitator, trainer and networker. Joanna is a founding member and vice-chair of Community Based Research Canada and Community Research Ethics Office.

Rich Janzen, Ph.D. Community Psychology, **Centre for Community Based Research**

Rich Janzen has worked at CCBR since 1996, becoming Co-Executive Director in 2015. He sees research as a tool for social innovation and change – to find new ways of bringing people who are on the edge of society to live within community as full and equal members. He has been involved in +130 community-based research projects. Rich has an academic background in community psychology and religious studies and is an adjunct assistant professor at Renison University College at the University of Waterloo.

James Watson, Ph.D. Intercultural Studies, **The Salvation Army**

James Watson is a consultant for The Salvation Army and adjunct faculty at Tyndale University College & Seminary. He is a graduate of McMaster Divinity College and the Fuller Theological Seminary School of Intercultural Studies.

Mark Chapman, Ph.D. Religious Studies, **Tyndale University College & Seminary**

Mark Chapman is Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program and Associate Professor of Research Methods at Tyndale University College & Seminary. Dr. Chapman serves as a lead researcher for the Tyndale Intercultural Ministry Centre. His recent research has focused on religion and immigration including projects related to Canadians who are starting new churches, the relationship between faith communities and the settlement sector, and an exploration of the role of churches in immigrant settlement and integration.

Natalia Khanonko-Friesen, Ph.D., **University of Saskatchewan**

Natalia Khanenko-Friesen is a founding editor of a Canadian journal on community engagement, Engaged Scholar Journal (esj.usask.ca). A cultural anthropologist and oral historian with an expertise in community outreach and scholarship of engagement, Natalia teaches in the department of religion and culture at St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan. Natalia is Interested in ethnicity, diasporas, and labour migration, she initiated and worked on a variety of community-based projects in Western Canada, Ukraine, Italy, and Portugal. Natalia's on-campus teaching is often based on various models of community engagement and she is thankful to her students for taking her into the real world where education should be pursued in the first place.

Ronald A. Kuipers, Ph.D. Philosophy, **Institute for Christian Studies (ICS)**

Ron Kuipers specializes in the philosophy of religion, in conversation with the intellectual traditions of American pragmatism, critical theory, and hermeneutics. His research and teaching focus on the continuing social and political relevance of religious life patterns in pluralistic Western societies, and asks how this cultural context shapes the different ways that religion comes to expression in those societies. Ron is the author of *Critical Faith: Toward a Renewed Understanding of Religious Life and its Public Accountability* (Rodopi, 2002), and *Richard Rorty*, an introduction to the philosophy of Richard Rorty (2013). In addition to faculty duties, Ron is also the Provost of ICS, and Director of ICS' Centre for Philosophy, Religion and Social Ethics.

Sam Reimer, Ph.D., **Crandall University**

Sam Reimer is professor of sociology at Crandall University in Moncton, New Brunswick. He is the author of two books and many academic articles. Sam has been involved in community based research projects and their resulting publications, including "Christian Churches and Immigrant Support in Canada: An Organizational Ecology Perspective." in *Review of Religious Research* (2016).

Joel Thiessen, Ph.D. Sociology, **Ambrose University**

Joel Thiessen is Professor of Sociology and the Director of the Flourishing Congregations Institute at Ambrose University in Calgary, Alberta. Author of two books – *The Sociology of Religion: A Canadian Perspective* (with Lorne Dawson, Oxford University Press) and *The Meaning of Sunday: The Practice of Belief in a Secular Age* (McGill-Queen's University Press) – he is currently working on three collaborative projects. One centers on religious nones in North America, another on Millennials in Canada, and one on flourishing congregations in Canada. Joel regularly speaks with church and denominational leaders across Canada, based on his research.

Katelyn Godin, **Community Research Ethics Office**

Katelyn Godin is a Ph.D. Candidate in Public Health and Health Systems at the University of Waterloo and a member of the Community Research Ethics Office, where she has served as a Board member for three years. In this role, Katelyn has supported numerous organizations locally, domestically, and internationally to conduct meaningful and robust research in various domains, while protecting research participants and maintaining the principles of ethical research. Throughout her five years as a public health researcher, Katelyn has led and supported diverse research studies, spanning clinical, community-based, evaluation, and population health research domains, both within Canada and abroad.

James (Jim) Cresswell, Ph.D. Social and Cultural Psychology, Ambrose University

Jim Cresswell's research interests draw on many sources ranging from cultural psychology to cognitive science and literary theory. His book *Culture and the Cognitive Science of Religion* (Rutledge Press) is on the challenge of studying religion will be released in fall of 2017. Jim is also part of a Partnership Development Grant provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. This project is a multiparty effort at describing the role faith-based organizations play in the resettlement of newcomers to Canada. One area of Jim's ongoing research is developing theory about the relationship between mind and culture, which can lead to exciting reconsideration of psychology as an art as much as a science.

Martin Taylor, Ph.D. Geography, Community Based Research Canada

Martin Taylor is Executive Director of the Canadian Research Data Centre Network and chairs the board of Community Based Research Canada. From 2007-2012, he served as Founding President of Ocean Networks Canada and from 1998-2007 he was the University of Victoria's Vice-President Research. Martin is the author of two books and over 100 peer-reviewed publications in the field of environmental and community health.

Wendy Fletcher, Ph.D., President and Vice-Chancellor Renison University College

Wendy Fletcher is the President and Vice-Chancellor of Renison University College. Prior to her time at Renison, Wendy served for 13 years in a number of capacities at the Vancouver School of Theology, which is affiliated with the University of British Columbia, as a professor, academic dean, dean, vice-principal and, for a period of seven years, as principal. Wendy's areas of specialization include the intersection of culture and Christianity in the 20th century, the history of colonization and its impact on Canadian First Nations, and the decline of Christianity in the North American culture. As an educator, she has developed special relationships with a number of First Nations and has been adopted into two of them.

Aileen van Ginkel, D. Min., The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC)

Aileen Van Ginkel has served the EFC in various capacities since 1989, when she acted as co-chair of the Social Action Commission. She served as director of the Education Commission and later directed the EFC's Ministry Partnerships program. She is currently the EFC's Vice-President, Ministry Services. While obtaining her D. Min. she conducted research on communal discernment practices in Christian churches and organizations. She lives with her husband and three children in King City, Ont.

John Pellowe, D. Min. Christian Leadership, Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC)

Rev. John Pellowe has served as the Chief Executive Officer of CCCC since 2003. CCCC provides support services and education to more than 3,400 member registered charities. John has studied governance and strategic leadership for nonprofits at both Harvard Business School and the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Business, and theology at the Oxford University Summer School of Theology. John has several publications including: *The Church at Work: A manual for excellent church-agency relations* (book: 2012). John also writes a blog, *Christian Leadership Reflections*, focused on strategic, organizational, and team leadership in Christian ministries, the personal life of a Christian leader, and leadership's spiritual aspects.

Peter Noteboom, The Canadian Council of Churches

Peter Noteboom is the Acting General Secretary of The Canadian Council of Churches. A believer in a better world, Peter's life work has been to build peace one step, one relationship at a time. As a program leader, community organizer and learning facilitator he knows how important it is for people to participate, join in the process of change, and make decisions together. Peter has two decades of experience working with Canadian churches on issues of justice and peace, faith and life sciences, health care, and human rights. He knows how to navigate differences and build unity in ecumenical and interfaith settings.

Paul Heidebrecht, Ph.D. Theological Ethics, Conrad Grebel University College

Paul Heidebrecht is the inaugural Director of the Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement at Conrad Grebel University College, where he teaches Peace and Conflict Studies and Theological Studies courses. Paul holds a Ph.D. in Theological Ethics from Marquette University and an MA in Theological Studies from the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. His current research interests reflect a range of academic fields and professional experiences, including the intersection of social innovation and peacebuilding, political advocacy and social ethics, and technology and moral formation.