



## **Opportunities for Independent Studies 2021-22**

### **Independent Study Courses in Health Studies (HLTH 595, 491, and 456)\* Independent Study Courses in Kinesiology (KNPE 595, 491, and 456)\***

Please submit applications directly to the relevant researcher(s) whose area of research is of interest.

HLTH/KNPE 595, 491, and 456 are designed to provide opportunities for students in Kinesiology or Health Studies who may be interested in pursuing research in laboratories, on community-based projects or in-depth learning about research of SKHS faculty members.

Students will gain experience with the research process as it applies to the various fields of Kinesiology and Health Studies. This process may include, but is not limited to experimental design, data collection and analysis, literature searches, manuscript writing, and presentation skills.

*\* Please note that HLTH/KNPE 491 and 456 are 3.0 credit unit courses which can be taken in either fall or winter terms (some summer term opportunities also exist), and HLTH/KNPE 595 is a 6.0 credit unit course which spans across both the fall and winter terms.*

## **Research Summaries of SKHS Faculty Members**

The following is a brief summary of research interests for the faculty members within the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies who have indicated their intent to supervise fourth-year independent courses next year. Further information on each faculty member can be found on the [SKHS website](#).

*\*\*Each year some faculty members will be on sabbatical, which may influence their ability to supervise students in either (or both) fall or winter term(s). The \*\* symbol denotes a faculty members who will be taking sabbatical during the 2021-22 academic year.*

### **Dr. Mary Louise Adams\*\* (SocioCultural Studies)**

Dr. Adams' research investigates everyday movement and recreation cultures as sites where relations of domination are both produced and resisted. Drawing on literatures and theories from feminist studies, cultural studies, and sport studies, and using a range of qualitative, interpretive, and historical methods, she explores embodiment, the meanings of movement, and the relationship between active bodies and their historical and cultural contexts. One of Dr. Adams's current projects involves the political, environmental and cultural history of a large piece of waterfront parkland in Kingston.

In the fall term of 2021, Dr. Adams is able to supervise one or two independent study students to help with the park project. The focus of the project is Kingston's Belle Park, formerly a piece of marshland that was then turned into a garbage dump in the 1950s and then a golf course in the 1970s. The site is slated to be redesigned as a nature park over the next few years. Independent study students could be involved in historical archival work, literature reviews, policy scans or analysis related to the parkland and its transformation. The project would appeal to students interested in environmental issues at the city level, biodiversity, the history of garbage, the relationship between recreation and environment.

Students who are interested in applying, should send a brief cover letter, an unofficial transcript, a resume, and a writing sample to Dr. Adams ([mla1@queensu.ca](mailto:mla1@queensu.ca)).

### **Dr. Stevenson Fergus**

Dr. Stevenson Fergus is happy to supervise 4<sup>th</sup>-year independent study projects in health promotion, public health, health policy, the social determinants of health, or related areas. Students wishing to study aspects of HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, substance use, harm reduction, and the opioid overdose crisis are especially encouraged to apply, although other student interests can also be accommodated. There's no need to have a finalized topic identified, as he will help you to identify one. Opportunities include a 3-credit literature review (HLTH 456), a 3-credit special project (HLTH 491), or a 6-credit honours thesis (HLTH 595).

Interested students should contact Dr. Fergus at [ferguss@queensu.ca](mailto:ferguss@queensu.ca), and attach a cover letter, unofficial transcript, and resume or CV. Please title the e-mail 'KNPE/HLTH Independent Study Application' in the subject line.

### **Dr. Brendon Gurd (Muscle Physiology Lab)**

There may be several different independent study opportunities in the Queen's Muscle Physiology Lab (QMPL) under the supervision of Dr. Brendon Gurd. Independent study students will be exposed to the research process through participation in study design, data collection and analysis. Current studies in the Gurd lab are examining the optimal intensity of exercise for improving aerobic fitness and the molecular mechanisms determining mitochondrial content.

All applications should include the following:

1. A copy of the applicant's CV and transcript
2. A brief letter of interest that highlights the following:
  - a. experiences relevant to working in the QMPL
  - b. a description of the characteristics and skills you possess that you believe will allow you to succeed as research intern working in the QPML
  - c. a brief discussion of your motivation for pursuing a research position within the QMPL

Applicants to the Queen's Muscle Physiology Lab (QMPL) should send their applications directly to Dr. Gurd at [gurdb@queensu.ca](mailto:gurdb@queensu.ca). Any questions on the application process can be sent directly to Dr. Gurd via email. More information on the research being conducted within the QPML can be found on the [lab website](#).

### **Dr. Eun-Young Lee (In Situ Population Health Research Lab)**

See the [In Situ lab's webpage](#) for more information.

*In Situ* Lab investigates social and environmental inequalities that have impact on human movement behaviours (e.g., physical activity, sedentary behaviour) and population health. On the topics of climate change, intersectionality (race- and gender- focused), movement behaviours and health, interns will work in a dynamic team environment alongside graduate students and researchers around the world, participating in literature reviews and/or various knowledge translation activities (e.g., mini reviews, systematic reviews, journal publications, website blog postings, podcasting).

Interested students should contact Dr. Eun-Young Lee ([eunyoung.lee@queensu.ca](mailto:eunyoung.lee@queensu.ca)) with a cover letter, unofficial transcript, an example of written work (e.g., a term paper), and a resume/CV. A cover letter should clearly indicate one's interests in one of the research themes outlined on the [lab webpage](#) and their relevant experiences.

### **Dr. Lucie Lévesque\*\***

Dr. Lévesque leads the [Community-Engaged Health Promotion Research group](#) in the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies. Her research focuses on program evaluation and implementation science examining community-based physical activity interventions through an ecological approach. A long-time member of the Kahnawake Schools Diabetes Prevention Project (KSDPP) <https://www.ksdpp.org/> research team, and frequent collaborator on Indigenous research initiatives,

Dr. Lévesque has extensive experience working with Indigenous communities within a participatory research framework. Her work is founded on community engagement for the production and dissemination of action-oriented knowledge. Dr. Lévesque's research encompasses both Indigenous and mainstream/Western science approaches and has informed the ways in which respectful and relevant research is conducted with Indigenous communities in Canada (e.g., [KSDPP Code of Research Ethics](#); Canada's Tri Council Policy Statement 2: [Module 9 – Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada](#)). In addition to her research with Indigenous communities, she also collaborates with public health researchers in local communities and in Mexico and the Caribbean to conduct program evaluation and research related to physical activity and health promotion. Locally, she is a founding member of Kingston Gets Active <https://kingstongetsactive.ca/> which provides many opportunities for SKHS students to learn about physical activity interventions and evaluation.

Interested students should contact Dr. Lévesque at [levesgul@queensu.ca](mailto:levesgul@queensu.ca), and attach a cover letter, unofficial transcript, and resume or CV. Please title the e-mail 'KNPE/HLTH Independent Study Application' in the subject line.

### **Dr. Luc Martin (Sport Psychology)**

Are you interested in being involved in research exploring the elements of positive youth sport experiences? Research in the sport psychology lab at Queen's focuses primarily on the characteristics of the youth sport environment (e.g., coach-athlete relationships, teammate interactions, coach characteristics) that create favourable conditions for excellence and participation in sport. In addition, current projects also relate to group dynamics principles (e.g., cohesion, subgroups) and coaching behaviours (e.g., transformational leadership) in sport.

Those students accepted for these positions will have opportunities to contribute to several ongoing projects, and will be working with data derived from observations (e.g., coding videos), interviews (e.g., transcription), and questionnaires (e.g., inputting data). Finally, students typically experience the research process within the field of sport psychology, from data collection (e.g., video-recording sport competition, questionnaire distribution) all the way to data analysis and writing.

Interested students should contact Dr. Luc Martin at [luc.martin@queensu.ca](mailto:luc.martin@queensu.ca), and attach a cover letter, unofficial transcript, and resume or CV. Please title the e-mail 'KNPE/HLTH Independent Study Application' in the subject line.

### **Dr. Kyra Pyke (Cardiovascular Stress Response Lab)**

Dr. Pyke will consider applications for independent study positions available in the Cardiovascular Stress Response Lab (CVSRL, Dr. Pyke) for the 2021-22 academic year. The CVSRL research focuses on improving our understanding of basic vascular function including responses to food intake and exercise, as well as understanding the impact of psychological stress on the cardiovascular system. The undergraduate thesis will provide an opportunity to develop, implement and communicate the results of a study – taking on a leadership role. This includes developing the critical thinking, technical

and communications skills required to see a study from start to finish. Participation in regular laboratory meetings will provide additional opportunities to learn about study design, cardiovascular physiology and communication of study findings.

Interested students should send a cover letter, an unofficial transcript, and their resume to Dr. Pyke at [pykek@queensu.ca](mailto:pykek@queensu.ca).

### **Dr. Robert Ross (Lifestyle and Cardiometabolic Research Unit)**

The mission of the Lifestyle and Cardiometabolic research Unit is to generate knowledge that leads to the creation of strategies designed to manage lifestyle-based disease, and the translation of that knowledge to the end user. The performing of large scale randomized controlled trials with adults is the primary strategy we use to meet our mission.

Our intervention-based research is performed within 5000 square feet of space in the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies. This space includes the aerobic exercise equipment necessary to perform multiple intervention trials. Equipment for measurement of indirect calorimetry both during exercise and at rest is in place. Also included are 4 MRI- and CT-image analysis workstations. We also have routine access to MRI, CT and DEXA facilities at Kingston General Hospital. Our cardiometabolic-based research is performed within our clinical laboratory space located within our laboratory and includes 2 beds, office space for our research nurses and two metabolic testing suites dedicated to performing our metabolic (eg oral glucose tolerance tests) studies.

Additional information regarding the Lifestyle and Cardiometabolic Research Unit can be found here: <https://www.lcru.ca/>

Interested students should contact Dr. Ross at [rossr@queensu.ca](mailto:rossr@queensu.ca), and attach a cover letter, unofficial transcript, and resume or CV. Please title the e-mail 'KNPE/HLTH Independent Study Application' in the subject line.