

Background

The Virtual Scholar in Residence Program provides an opportunity for Canadian police officers to enhance their knowledge and understanding of criminal justice research through direct participation as a member of a research team. Each year, a virtual scholar will work directly under the supervision of an established academic researcher (the Mentor), and in collaboration with other team members to help create, execute, and present a piece of research.

There is an expectation that the virtual scholar will join the academic research team to present her or his research at a major national or international conference, and/or publish in a peer reviewed journal. Those selected will also be asked to participate virtually in the evidence based policing community, through webinars, twitter engagement and other activities aimed at documenting their growth as researchers and promoting their work products.

We also welcome other types of contributions to community engagement. Although selected virtual scholars may visit the Mentor and team in person, there is no requirement they do so and, beyond travel costs associated with potential conference or workshop presentations, there are no other costs involved in this program.

The Projects

The projects will be based on a mutual interest between the virtual scholar and the Mentor¹. The expectation is that the research will begin work in January 2022 following a virtual team meeting developing a research plan and will generally conclude responsibilities by December 2022. Expectations should be realistic to meet this time frame as past experiences have shown research based on primary data will often exceed this framework.

Selection Criteria

1. A sworn Canadian police officer at the rank of Constable, Corporal, Sergeant or Staff Sergeant.
2. A college or university academic background is highly desirable but is not required.
3. The ability to commit time² to learning and mastering basic research tasks, these include:
 - How to conduct a literature review;
 - How to write up a discussion of research methods (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, etc.);
 - How to work with others to analyze data; and
 - How to present research to academic and police audiences.
4. Operational or other knowledge of the research subject is an advantage, but not required.
5. Evidence of strong writing skills.
6. The ability and willingness to participate in the global EBP community as the Can-SEBP Virtual Scholar in Residence and as a representative of the research team.
7. Evidence of departmental support.

¹ The research project may entail quantitative or qualitative studies. Efforts will be made to match Virtual Scholar and Mentor with the same preference.

² Virtual Scholars who are unable to make the time commitment and do not complete assignments within a reasonable time, will not continue with the program.

The Academic Mentors

Dr. Rylan Simpson



Institution:
Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC

Research Interests:
Policing, perceptions of police, police organizations, legitimacy, experimental criminology, theories of crime, and social psychology. Interested in police recruitment, effects of public events on crime/calls for service, police use of social media, and related projects [using publicly available data].

Website:
<http://www.rylansimpson.com/>

Dr. Alana Saulnier



Institution:
Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

Research Interests:
Applied automatization, AI, and robotics in partnership with the Queens Ingenuity Lab. Evaluating legal authorities and policies of data collection and technological management (e.g., BWC, UAVs, etc.). Exploring the public perception of police uses of these technologies. Current member of advisory working groups on technology impacts and implementation with CACP, RCMP, etc.

Website:
<https://www.queensu.ca/sociology/alana-saulnier>

Dr. Adam Vaughan



Institution:
JIBC/Texas State University

Research Interests:
Policing and mental health aspects of the criminal justice system, wellness of police officers, and the economics of policing.

Website:
<https://faculty.txstate.edu/profile/2092607>

Dr. Krysta Dawson



Agency:
BC-Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU)

Research Interests:
Social Network Analysis involving organized crime/gangs, violence (homicide), and firearms.

VIRTUAL SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Application Process

Interested applicants are asked to submit the following in Word format, Times New Roman font, 12 point, and single-spaced:

- A current CV/Resume;
- A concise one page 'essay' outlining the reasons the candidate is interested in applying for this opportunity, their research interests, their background in research methodology, and other skills and knowledge they feel would contribute to the team; and
- A letter from a supervisor indicating they support the application and believe the applicant, and their police service, would benefit from knowledge gained.

These documents should be emailed to cansebp.ce@gmail.com. Incomplete applications will be not accepted.

The Application Deadline is **January 21, 2022**.

Selection Process

Each completed application will be reviewed by one member of the selection panel. The selection panel is composed of representatives from the Canadian Police Association, the Police Association of Ontario and the Canadian Society of Evidence Based Policing. Applications will be ordered by preference and then discussed amongst the panel until consensus is reached.

A decision will be announced by **January 31, 2022**.