
OUR RESEARCH PROGRAM

Canada is becoming increasingly diverse. In 2019, Canada welcomed more than 300,000 permanent residents. Migrants to Canada also include refugee claimants and temporary foreign workers. Statistics Canada data shows that immigrants arrive in Canada healthier than Canadian born populations. This phenomenon is called the healthy immigrant effect. The central reason for this is immigration policies for skilled workers (the largest group of immigrants) focus on only admitting individuals with good health status. However, research suggests that the health of immigrants declines after a period of time in Canada.

The Health and Immigration Policy and Practices Research Program (HIPP) seeks to address the decline in immigrant health in Canada by focusing on the health of the most vulnerable groups of immigrants, including those with precarious immigration status. Our future research aims to inform policy and practice innovations to address emergent issues concerning migrant health in an age of global displacement and forced movement.

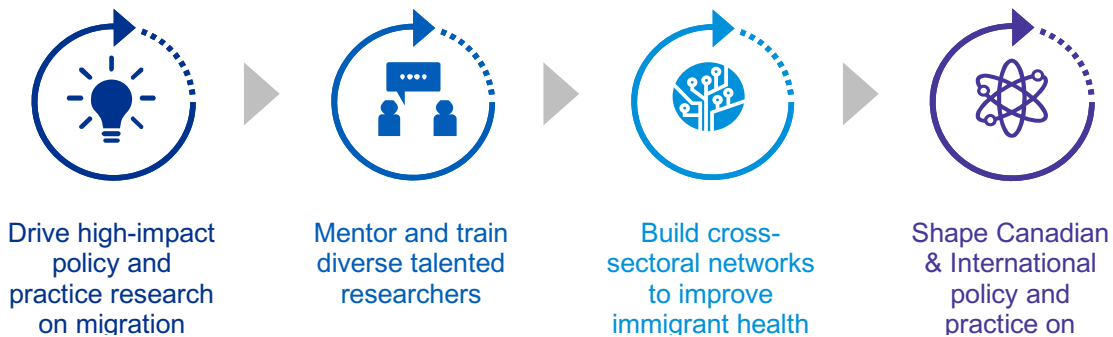
PROGRAM LEAD – DR. BUKOLA SALAMI

Dr. Bukola Salami's research program focuses on health policies and practices related to immigrant populations. As of November 2020, she has been involved in over 50 funded research projects and led over 20 of these projects with funding from national and international agencies. Dr. Salami has over 60 published scholarly articles (another 15 under review), three book chapters, eleven reports, and one clinical practice manual. Her research has been cited by major international organizations, for example, the 2017 World Health Organization Report [Women on the move: Migration, care work and health](#). In September 2015, Dr. Salami became a collaborating researcher with United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. She currently leads the African Child and youth migration network, a network of 30 researchers across the globe focused on African child and youth wellbeing.

Over the last five years, Dr. Salami has trained and mentored over 40 individuals. Many of her mentees have succeeded in their research careers, including two who are now Assistant Professors and one Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Alberta. Dr. Salami has a strong community involvement to improve immigrant child health. She led the research committee for the Edmonton Local Immigrant Partnership where she focused on knowledge translation of research on immigrant health in Edmonton. Her inputs as a committee member of the Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) helped shape the ECF's 2016 [Vital Signs Report on the Social Inclusion of Immigrants in Alberta](#). She is a council member of the Alberta College of Social Workers and serves on the steering committee of the Worldwide Universities Network Global Africa Group, where she represents the University of Alberta. She has been on the jurisprudence exam committee of the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND FUTURE PROJECTS

Our vision and strategy, developed in collaboration with leaders in the Research field, focuses on working together to achieve the below four main objectives:



To date, HIPP accomplished several high impact initiatives such as:

1. Produced research projects that informed policy and practice, refer to Page 5.
2. Created the [Black Youth Mentorship and Leadership Program](#)
3. Mentored and trained over 40 graduate students including two of which have become Assistant Professors and one have become an Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Alberta
4. Mentees won awards, including the [Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship](#), an award that is given to world-class doctoral students. To view featured articles, click [here](#).
5. Created the African Child and Youth Migration Network, a network that seeks to develop and mobilize knowledge to improve policies and practices related to African migrant children and youths
6. Produced over 60 research papers to impact immigrant health across the globe
7. Collaborated with researchers across 30 countries to improve immigrant health internationally
8. Provided consultation and presentations to provincial, national, and international policy makers, including at the United Nations

The future direction of HIPP is determined to build on its past achievements and expand its initiatives through:

1. Strengthening the Global network of scholars and trainees focused on African child migration
2. Creating a national network of scholars, policy makers and practitioners focused on black well being
3. Expanding the Black Youth Mentorship Program from the provincial to the national level and drive high impact and improve economic outcomes
4. Driving high impact qualitative and quantitative research on migration and health
5. Supporting or create a health center for black people
6. Engaging policy makers, community and religious leaders to address immigrant health

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Between 2014 and 2020, HIPP successfully delivered results on 53 research projects on the health of immigrant populations. Our data have generated rich insights and below are some key highlights. If you are interested to read the rest of the research papers, please refer to Dr. Salami's CV on her website.

Anti-black racism and intergenerational tensions are important factors that contribute to the mental health of Black youths

Self-reported mental health of immigrants declines after 5 years in Canada (from Statistics Canada data)

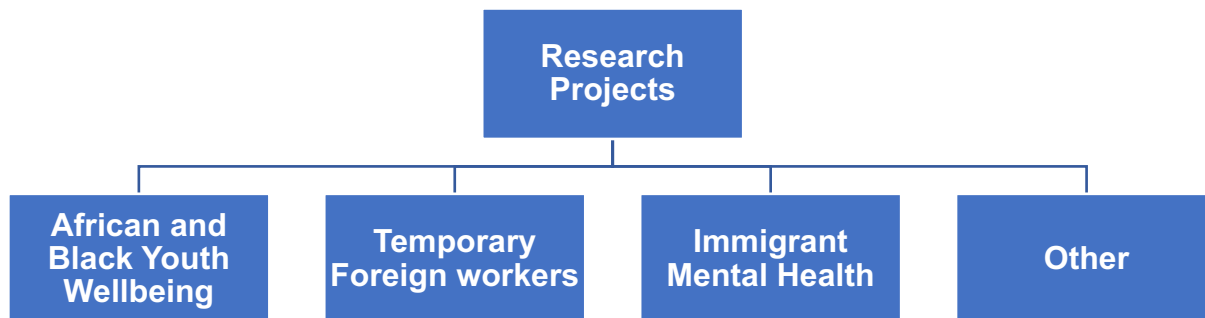
Income and community belonging have the strongest influence on immigrant mental health in Canada

A strength-based perspective to health service delivery is needed that capitalize on the strengths, agency and values of immigrants

Immigration status is a major determinant of health, with impacts on ability and willingness to access health services

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Dr. Salami focuses her research efforts on the health and well-being of immigrants in Canada, and more closely the health policies and practices related to immigrant populations. To date, she has been involved in over 50 funded research projects and lead over 20 of these projects. The diagram below shows the breakdown of Dr. Salami's research into four main themes, with key papers she is a lead on, listed under each theme. To view the full list of research papers, please view Dr. Salami's CV.



African and Black Youth Wellbeing:

1. A Participatory Project to Improve Economic outcomes, Community Belonging and Leadership Skills of Black Youths in Alberta. Heritage Canada. \$90,000
2. African child migration in circumstances of vulnerability: Developing a research partnership and network. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Partnership Development Grant. \$200,000
3. African child and youth wellbeing in the context of migration and displacement. Worldwide Universities Network Research Development Grant. GBP 25,511
4. A participatory action research project to promote the mental health of African immigrant children in Alberta: A pilot project. Women and Children's Health Research Institute Bridge Funding. \$40,000
5. A participatory action research project to promote the mental health of African, Black and Caribbean youths in Alberta. PolicyWise for Children and Families. \$40,000
6. Strengthening parenting practices of African immigrants in Alberta: Mobilizing African immigrant communities and developing a research team. Kule Institute for Advanced Studies Research Team Grant. \$5,700

7. Strengthening child and family wellbeing in African immigrant communities in Alberta. Women and Children's Health Research Institute Scientific Knowledge Exchange Program Grant. \$2,000
8. Parenting and mental health promotion practices of African immigrants in Alberta. M.S.I Foundation. \$66,000

Temporary Foreign Workers:

1. Migration and precarity: From the Temporary Foreign Worker Program to permanent resident, student and undocumented migrant status. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Grant. \$197,145. Matching fund from Kule Institute for Advanced Studies. An additional \$3,000
2. Interrogating the impact of recent changes to Canadian temporary foreign workers policy on Canadians and temporary foreign workers in Alberta: Developing a research team. Kule Institute for Advanced Studies (KIAS) Research Team Grant. \$7,500
3. Scoping review on the health of temporary foreign workers in Canada. Killam Research Operating Grant. \$6,979
4. The health and well-being of children and families of temporary foreign workers: A pilot stakeholder consultation. Alberta Center for Child, Family and Community Research Seed Grant. \$9,919.70
5. Developing a program of research to strengthen the well-being of live-in caregivers, care recipients, and employers (i.e. family caregivers): A stakeholder consultation. Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta Establishment Grant \$16,500
6. The experience of service recipients and employers of migrant live-in caregivers: A scoping review. SSHRC Vice President Research Special competition. \$9,097

Immigrant Mental Health:

1. Mental health of immigrant children in Canada: Evidence from the Canadian Health Measures Survey and Parent Interviews in Alberta. Women and Children's Health Research Institute Innovation Grant. \$50,000
2. Relationship between lifestyle behaviours, social determinants of health, and mental health in Canadian immigrants across the life course. Alberta Center for Child, Family, and Community Research Grant. \$40,000

Other:

1. Internationally educated nurses experience of downward occupational mobility in Canada: A pilot transnational feminist informed qualitative study. University of Alberta Endowment Fund for the Future Support for the Advancement of Scholarship Research Fund. EFF-SAS. \$5,000
2. Access to healthcare for immigrant children in Alberta. Killam Cornerstone Grant. \$48,750
3. Identifying the needs for healthy ageing in Muslim immigrant communities in Edmonton. University of Alberta Endowment Fund for the Future Support for the Advancement of Scholarship Research Fund. EFF-SAS. \$5,000

Dr. Salami has over 50 publications in peer reviewed journals, listed in her CV.