



Eaton LAB NEWSLETTER

Empowering
communities
through impactful
research

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PhD, MSW, RSW



A NOTE FROM DR. ANDREW EATON

Thanks for reading our 2nd newsletter. We are in data collection for **3 Infections, 1 Fight** (funded by CIHR & SHRF) and the **Men's Sex Survey** (funded by SSHRC). We have started knowledge mobilization for **Crisis Mental Health** (funded by SSHRC). Coming up, we will seek funding for the next phase of **Cognitive Remediation Group Therapy** and launch a new project focused on Tabletop Role-Playing Game (TTRPG) Therapy (funded by **UIC & OSF Healthcare**). Below we welcome new students, celebrate our students' successes, and summarize a recent event.

WELCOMING NEW LAB MEMBERS

The Eaton Lab interdisciplinary team is growing! We're pleased to welcome four new students to the lab:



Brian Thomas, PhD Student, Cultural Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Brian's research interests focus on games, play, and practice theory, with particular interest in the use of tabletop roleplaying games and their use in clinical mental health.



Klee Shi, PhD Student, Jane Addams College of Social Work, UIC
Klee's research interests focus on aging, mental health, and social connectedness with particular interest in supporting well-being among older adults and other underserved populations.



Zaiyuan Hu, PhD Student, Psychology, University of Toronto
Zaiyuan's work focuses on how social determinants of well-being—such as race/ethnicity, culture, gender, and social status—shape mental health outcomes among underrepresented populations. She is also interested in mixed-methods and community-based research approaches.



Basia Silverberg, MSW Student, Jane Addams College of Social Work, UIC
Basia's work explores body image, eating disorders, and social identities, with a particular focus on LGBTQ+ youth.



We encourage readers to **VISIT** the website to learn more about our team and ongoing work.



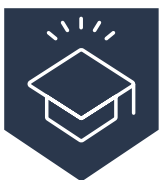
NEW PUBLICATIONS AND RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Eaton, A. D., Kwan, S., Varghese, S., House, H., & Reddy, V. D. (2026). Ethics and practicalities to utilizing geospatial and pop-up intervention methods with people who use drugs. In *Sage Research Methods: Inclusive Research Methodologies*. SAGE Publications, Ltd., <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781036245030>

Pang, N., Varghese, S. M., Reddy, V. D., Acoose, T., Hidlebaugh, E., Kwan, S., Rowe, M., Medeiros, P., Shuper, P. A., Ibáñez-Carrasco, F., Grace, D., & Eaton, A. D. (2026). Mapping needles, reducing harm: Findings from a geospatial, community-based needle collection and naloxone training initiative in Saskatchewan, Canada. *Harm Reduction Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12954-026-01477-z>

Rowe, M. W., Kwan, S., Rao, S., Beer, O. W. J., Curtis, T. J., Lung, S.-J., Busch, A., Vandervoort, D., Shuper, P., Scheadler, T. R., & Eaton, A. D. (2026). Navigating and negotiating sexual identity and attraction: A queer analysis of heterosexual-identified men who have sex with men. *The Journal of Sex Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2026.2658121>

Rowe, M. W., Nguyen, A., Lowe, L., Fletcher, K., & Eaton, A. D. (2026). Restructuring crisis response programs as civilian-led: A scoping review. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10488-026-01514-w>



Congratulations to Megan W. Rowe and Salem Rao for being awarded Canada Graduate Research Scholarships! Congratulations to Heather House for being admitted to the Practical Nursing diploma program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic! Congratulations to Sandra Kwan for graduating with a Master of Public Health from the University of Toronto!

RECENT EVENTS

The Eaton Lab has engaged in several events, including a recent interactive workshop:



Knowledge-to-Action in Alternative Crisis Response: An Interactive Workshop

Dr. Eaton and Megan W. Rowe (Eaton Lab), alongside Amanda Mathew (Alternative Mobile Services Association) and Dr. Claire Ryder (Fourth Branch Institute at Dignity Best Practices), facilitated an interactive workshop at the 2026 Advancing the Field of Alternative Response Convening in Chicago. The session brought together research and practice-based perspectives on the development of alternative crisis response systems.

The workshop focused on translating findings from a multi-phase study on crisis response models into applied discussion. Phase 1 of the project included scoping reviews of co-responder and civilian-led crisis response models, and Phase 2 involved qualitative interviews with key informants.

Across the scoping reviews, three key processes emerged in co-responder models: decriminalizing mental health crisis response, interprofessional collaboration, and iterative piloting and evaluation. In contrast, civilian-led models emphasized decentering police involvement, clarifying operational frameworks (including dispatch and response criteria), and supporting long-term team sustainability through resourcing and social and political will. Participants engaged in facilitated breakout discussions exploring community readiness for alternative crisis response, perceived challenges and risks, and the relative promise of civilian-led versus co-responder approaches. Discussion also focused on how crisis types are defined and how response criteria vary across systems and jurisdictions.



Presentation material is available from this and other workshops and conferences here:

[Read More](#)