



UNIVERSITY  
OF ALBERTA



2022-23

# **Human Ecology** **Annual Report**

FEB 25, 2023



Photo credit: John Ulan

# Chair's Message

**As chair of the Department of Human Ecology, I am pleased to introduce the 2022-23 Human Ecology Annual Report. Emerging from a period of reduced interactions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including requirements for remote teaching and learning from March 2020 to September 2022, I hope our students, alumni, researchers and community partners enjoy this overview of the research and scholarship currently happening in the department.**

There are currently 165 students enrolled in the undergraduate program, and graduate program enrolment has surged to 60 students. I believe these numbers speak to the relevance of the field of human ecology to our current and prospective students, who show passionate interest in developing solutions to social and environmental problems, both locally and globally. These challenges exist across a range of areas that we focus on in the department, such as family well-being, housing, design, textile science and apparel production.

Human ecologists explore the interactions between people and the environments that enable them to thrive. While early human ecology theory somewhat predates contemporary concerns with environmental issues, current practice takes place against a backdrop of sustainable development and social innovation. You will see these themes emerge in the stories of our department's faculty and students contained in this report.

I'd like to offer a sincere thank you to the former chair, Deanna Williamson, for her leadership and commitment to the department during her 12-year tenure in the role. During her time as chair, Deanna made significant impacts including: faculty renewal; the addition of the **Fashion Business Management** program; the honorific naming of the **Anne Lambert Clothing and Textiles Collection**; and a significant commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. She has left big shoes to fill!

**RHONDA BREITKREUZ**  
Chair and Professor





# Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Chair’s Message</b> .....                      | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Program Overview</b> .....                     | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Family Science Research Highlights</b> .....   | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Textile Science Research Highlights</b> .....  | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Material Culture Research Highlights</b> ..... | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Community Connections</b> .....                | <b>20</b> |
| <b>Faculty &amp; Staff Directory</b> .....        | <b>24</b> |

Did you know the mural on the Canterbury Heights Seniors' Residence was painted by artist and graduate student Jill Thomson? Read more on page 18.



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**The Department of Human Ecology's undergraduate and graduate degree programs are unique in Canada. We offer the only four-year bachelor of science degree in human ecology, the only bachelor of science degree in fashion business management (shared initiative of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences and the Alberta School of Business) and the only human ecology PhD program in the country.**



## Teaching and Learning

The study of human ecology is a multidisciplinary, applied field that focuses on the well-being of families and individuals within a range of social, cultural and material environments. The current department has its roots in the pioneering study of home economics that was established at the University of Alberta more than a century ago. Today, human ecology research and practice includes applied concepts of sustainable development, social innovation and diversity.

## Human Ecology Addresses Modern Challenges

Sustainable development meets present needs without compromising how future generations will meet their own needs. For example, there is an urgent concern regarding the toxic effects of textile production and the ever-increasing textile waste resulting from apparel overconsumption.

Social innovation has many definitions. One that is relevant in a human ecology context is the “process of developing effective solutions to challenging and often systemic social and environmental issues in support of social progress,” augmented by support from businesses, government and non-profits ([Stanford Graduate School of Business](#)). This perspective enriches human ecology research in policy development, gender equality, housing, poverty reduction, family well-being and sustainable clothing, to name a few.

Increasing diversity in student learning includes recognizing Indigenous approaches to education, offering experiential learning, and collaborating with communities outside the university. These concepts are increasingly incorporated into human ecology teaching and learning, including the undergraduate practicum requirement.



# Human Ecology Degree Programs

## BSc in Human Ecology

### MAJORS:

- Family Science
- Clothing, Textiles and Material Culture

Includes the Human Ecology Practicum: a 200-hour field placement that formally supplements students' academic study with work experience.

## BSc in Fashion Business Management

A shared initiative of ALES and the Alberta School of Business.

## Graduate Programs

Course-based and thesis-based master's and doctoral programs offered include:

- MSc, PhD in Aging
- MSc, PhD in Children, Youth & Families
- MSc, PhD in Textile & Apparel Science
- MA, PhD in Material Culture







# FAMILY SCIENCE **RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

**No environment may affect people as profoundly as the family. Our family science faculty members are interested in research areas such as community development, social policy, couple relationships, parenting, poverty and homelessness, and aging.**





## Rhonda Breitzkreuz - Scholarship Focus

A faculty member in the human ecology department since 2007, professor and chair, Rhonda Breitzkreuz, leads the Gender, Family and Policy Research Initiative in the department. Her research explores the ways in which specific government policies affect well-being, social equality and access to resources. It includes investigating the impact of childcare policy on maternal employment and family well-being.

**In 2020, Breitzkreuz launched the Global Research Network on the Economic Empowerment of Women (ReNEW).** The aim of ReNEW is to explore women's economic empowerment across developing and developed countries to identify common themes and issues relevant to women in a range of economies. Issues that are common across the globe include persistent gender pay gaps, the unequal distribution of unpaid and paid work between women and men, lower political participation of women, increased risk of poverty and violence for women and mothers, and the negative effects of income insecurity on individual, child, and familial health. ReNEW has members from seven countries, including Australia, Brazil, Ghana, India, Ireland, Mexico, and Canada. ReNEW members are currently writing a book: Breitzkreuz, R. & Baird, M. Eds. (forthcoming). *Women's economic empowerment and the state: A human ecological perspective.* London: Edgar-Elgar Publishing.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Breitzkreuz, R. Colen, K., & Horne, R. (2021). Producing the patchwork: The hidden work of mothers in organizing child care in Alberta, Canada. *Journal of Family Studies*, 27, 3, 436-454. DOI: 10.1080/13229400.2019.1635038.





## Sustaining Relationships

Professor Matthew Johnson's primary research focus is the study of couple relationships. He has international experience working with a large longitudinal German data set known as PAIRFAM (Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics). Johnson is also a co-investigator of the Edmonton Transitions Study, which is a unique longitudinal study that surveyed over 900 Edmontonians eight times from ages 18 to 50.

During the summer of 2022, Johnson received extensive media coverage of his research that tested if the stereotypical image of women as the barometer of satisfaction in a heterosexual couple relationship could be shown to be true.

Journalists could not resist the "happy wife, happy life" quip to introduce the topic, a notion that seems to have gained traction in the 1970s, but one that Johnson notes had little empirical evidence to support it.

Based on longitudinal research over five years – with annual assessments and analysis of more than 50,000 relationship satisfaction reports – Johnson found that women are not more effective at anticipating relationship satisfaction for themselves or their partners. Satisfaction of both partners in romantic relationships is equally important to predicting their future happiness, and thus both share responsibility for directing the course of their relationship.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Johnson, M.; Lavner, M.; Muise, A.; et al. (2022) Women and Men are the Barometers of Relationships: Testing the Predictive Power of Women's and Men's Relationship Satisfaction, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Vol.19 (33)*. DOI:10.1073/pnas.2209460119



## A Focus on Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Associate Professor Pushpanjali Dashora's research interests include child and adolescent development, poverty and homelessness. Homelessness among youth increases the likelihood of victimization, mental health challenges and engagement in risky behaviours.

Dashora was recently awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) research grant. The research focuses on youth who are experiencing homelessness in Canada and will provide a unique understanding about their lives, struggles, needs and concerns.

One of the aims of this study is to assess the extent to which a participatory video intervention contributes to positive outcomes for youth experiencing homelessness. In the participatory video process, people who are marginalized develop videos to share their voices and experiences, which are often excluded from society.

The research project includes plans to distribute the completed videos to service providers, policy makers and community leaders. By involving decision-makers, it is anticipated that the videos will provide new insights into the issues study participants face, and will result in tangible outcomes that benefit the youth.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dashora, P. & Kiaras, S. (2021). Youth without housing: An ecological-developmental perspective. *Child & Youth Services*, 43:1. 53-75, 10.1080/0145935X.2021.1987211





## Help Seeking and Relationship Repairs

Associate Professor Adam Galovan explores various dimensions of family and couple relationships. His research interests include the factors that influence how partners (both together or separated) interact and progress in their many roles.

An example of Galovan's recent research is a study exploring relationship-repair behaviours among couples considering divorce. Researching behaviours from personal and self-help efforts to professional therapy may lead to strategies that help couples achieve more clarity in their divorce decision-making.

Galovan and his co-authors note that while much is known about factors that might predict divorce, far less is known about the divorce decision-making process. The study employed a U.S. national longitudinal study of 745 married individuals.

It was clear from the study that there is wide variation in divorce decision-making among couples in distress. An important finding that emerged was that most couples who had recent thoughts of divorce did not readily seek out professional help. In fact, only about 20 per cent of individuals had even moderate levels of professional help-seeking. Study respondents relied much more on self-help and personal efforts, such as having a serious talk with a spouse, to repair their marriages.

The authors conclude that family science scholars need to better understand the effectiveness of such personal and self-help interventions and that professional practitioners may need better ways of reaching couples considering divorce.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Galovan, A., Hawkins A., Harris, S., Simpson, D. (2021). What are they doing? A national survey of help-seeking and relationship-behavior of individuals who are thinking about divorce. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, Vol.48 (2), 371-390. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jmft.12480>



# TEXTILE SCIENCE **RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

**Textiles and apparel serve a critical function as our nearest physical environment. Multidisciplinary research in textile science and apparel design in the department focuses on enhancing human comfort and protection for items ranging from protective gear, uniforms and sports wear to clothing for disabled persons.**





## Enhancing Worker Health and Safety

A hallmark of Associate Professor Patricia Dolez's research is working collaboratively with industry, multidisciplinary teams of scientists and graduate students to create new solutions to enhance worker health and safety.

Dolez has applied her expertise to many aspects that improve the safety and longevity of firefighters' garments, such as collecting data on the degradation of fire-protective fabrics when laundered or exposed to sweat, water, rain and snow. It is critical to firefighters' safety to assess the long-term resistance of fire-protective fabrics under the conditions that the clothing will face over its lifetime.

Dolez is also the lead researcher on an exciting project that resulted in a patent-pending innovation to create graphene sensor patches for firefighting suits. These sensors would detect the gradual breakdown of fabrics from exposure to heat, moisture and UV light — a degradation process that is invisible to the naked eye. The sensors would alert wearers to unsafe, damaged gear they might otherwise be unable to detect. Davey Textile Solutions in Edmonton is one of five industry partners on the project.

Front-line health workers, military personnel and patients also stand to benefit from another important research area Dolez leads. Beginning in 2020, her team developed a textile treatment that kills viruses on contact. With major funding from Canada's Department of National Defence, work has now advanced to examine how the technology can be readied to make it financially feasible and compatible with industry manufacturing processes. A partnership with Canadian company Logistik Unicorp Inc. will aid the commercialization process. Dolez reports that research is also underway to develop a recharging system to reactivate the decontaminating finish for ongoing protection.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Hoque, S., Saha, A., Chung, H., Dolez, P. (2022). Hydrothermal aging of fire-protective fabrics. *Journal of Applied Polymer Science*, 139(30.) <https://doi.org/10.1002/app.52666>

## Clothing Repair Café – The Trend to Mend

Associate Professor Rachel McQueen researches the development and retention of odour in textiles, including related fabric characteristics, evaluation methods and odour control technologies. This interest evolved into work with a strong sustainability and consumer behaviour focus on how and why people use and dispose of clothing, which could offer solutions to the urgent problem of vast and growing amounts of textile waste.

McQueen recently began an innovative on-campus initiative to encourage people to wear their clothes longer. Guided by knowledgeable volunteers, visitors to the **Clothing Repair Café** learn basic clothing repair skills to fix missing buttons, broken zips, tears and other issues that may cause garments to be prematurely discarded. Repairing clothing to extend the life of a garment can reduce waste and prevent repurchasing – helping reduce fashion's carbon footprint.

This project provides a pragmatic solution to issues identified in a study conducted by McQueen that measured repair practices among Canadian and U.S. consumers in relation to gender and age.

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The Clothing Repair Café is supported by the University of Alberta Campus Sustainability Grant Program.

Photo credit: Supplied





Photo credit: Supplied



Findings indicated that women were most likely to do self-repairs, and men more likely to rely on paid repairs. Overall, the use of paid repairs was low for both genders and across age groups.

These findings led to questions about how consumers, especially men and young adults, might be encouraged to repair their clothing. Offering convenient, local access to repair equipment and how-to information on campus is one solution, which resulted in the creation of the Clothing Repair Café. The project involves a series of weekend meetings where participants drop by to learn how to repair and mend their garments. The first meeting in fall 2022 was a resounding success and meetings will continue in 2023.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

McQueen, R., McNeill, L., Huang, Q., Potdar, B. (2022). Unpicking the gender gap: Examining socio-demographic factors and repair responses in clothing repair practice. *Recycling*, 7(4), 53. <https://doi.org/10.3390/recycling7040053>



# MATERIAL CULTURE **RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

**Material culture research considers the social meaning of objects relating to their design, use and consumption, and disposal, and how these processes are central to understanding culture and social relations.**



Photo credit: Anne Bissonnette



Photo credit: Richard Siemens



## Clothing and Curatorial Projects

Professor Anne Bissonnette is a dress historian, designer, and curator of the department's Anne Lambert Clothing and Textiles Collection. Her research explores clothing and textiles from the 18th century to the present day. Historical pattern research comprises much of Bissonnette's collaboration with graduate students.

A multi-year, SSHRC funded project titled "A Revolutionary Decade: Fashion & Material Culture in the 1790s" is wrapping up in 2023. Presentations drawing from this project were delivered to the Costume Society of America meetings and at the International Council of Museums General Conference in Prague, Czech Republic in 2022.

In her role as curator, Bissonnette noted that curatorial projects did not stop despite pandemic-related closures of the university galleries. Projects to provide online access included development of the "[Virtual Tour of the Anne Lambert Clothing and Textiles Collection](#)" and "[Innerwear: Liminal Dressing 1820-2020](#)," a virtual exhibition she co-curated with undergraduate students. This work was documented in a student co-presentation at the Costume Society of America's 2022 Annual Symposium.

By May 2022, the Human Ecology Gallery was open again and welcomed visitors to [\[De\]Coded: Deciphering the Dialects of Dress](#). This exhibition explores the communicative power of clothing and its multiple-messaging capabilities, and questions how dress can be used within oppressive systems of power and privilege. The exhibit was curated by Bissonnette, with co-curators Emma Carri, Qi Wang and Josée Chartrand.



## Canterbury Foundation Projects

Social innovation refers to the design and implementation of solutions which ultimately aim to improve the well-being of individuals and communities. Professor Megan Strickfaden's research incorporates this perspective through the co-creation of projects with and for the community. Her recent research with the Canterbury Foundation engaged residents in the design process of the newly expanded Canterbury Heights Seniors' Residence in Edmonton.

A multi-year project (2019-23) titled "Spaces, People, Things: Entanglements with Congregate Living" funded through a Mitacs Accelerate grant involved consultation on the renovation of a newly opened dementia wing at Canterbury Heights. The research helped inform the development of the building's new memory-care unit and the way in which staff engage with residents. Canterbury Foundation staff described the new unit as "more than just a new space – it comes with a brand-new culture."

The creation of a large mural on the building's exterior for the new high-rise wing of Canterbury Heights Seniors' Residence is another component of the research partnership with the Canterbury Foundation. The mural, featuring an intergenerational depiction of seniors and children working together in the garden, was painted by artist and graduate student Jill Thomson. She completed the project under Strickfaden's supervision as part of her master of arts degree requirement in human ecology.

Inspiration and ideas for the mural emerged from residents' own artworks created in workshops conducted by researchers. A survey of neighbourhood residents also provided inspiration for the inclusion of area landmarks in the painting. The mural was unveiled in the summer of 2022 to the delight of the residents and staff of Canterbury Heights and the neighbouring community.

Future research outputs are planned for 2023. Strickfaden has created a series of illustrated films to help educate caregivers and families about issues related to how material environments can aid in caring for older adults. She has collaborated with four different care homes in Edmonton and the surrounding area to produce the films, which have achieved international distribution. Garden Gifts, the 7th film in the series, is coming out in 2023.



**I have always been fascinated with the intimate connection that exists between human beings and textiles – not just the textile pieces themselves, but textile making as well.**

Lucia Gago Ross

Photo credit: Lucia Gago Ross



## Graduate Student Profile: Lucia Gago Ross

*Graduate study in the department is enriched by the interaction of a diverse group of students, including many from outside Canada. Lucia Gago Ross, a graduate student from Uruguay, tells the story of her decision to come to the U of A to pursue her interest in textile arts.*

My background in industrial design, textiles and anthropology led me to search for a master's program in material culture – something not offered back home. The U of A was the only school that offered a master's program in Material Culture in Human Ecology. The interdisciplinarity of human ecology is important to me, and the fact that the department houses the Anne Lambert Collection was a definite plus.

I have always been fascinated with the intimate connection that exists between human beings and textiles – not just the textile pieces themselves, but textile making as well. It's a ubiquitous presence in our daily lives that sometimes goes unnoticed, yet textiles are central to our humanity. The close relationship between textiles and human beings was something I wanted to delve deeper into with my master's research.

Consulting with my graduate supervisor, Vlada Blinova, I came to my research topic: tapestry making in Uruguay during times of socio-political unrest, looking specifically at the work of one of its pioneers, Ernesto Aroztegui (1930-1994).

In many Latin American countries in the second half of the 20th century, repression and censorship were the common currency of the times, but a small group of Uruguayan textile artists managed to keep working amidst these circumstances. They eventually founded the Textile Movement of Uruguay, which flourished in the subsequent years. Revered in South America, self-taught artist Ernesto Aroztegui is known for encompassing new techniques in weaving, much of it using portraiture. He actively mentored new weavers, giving them the tools to be independent in the craft.

I have an interest in how his work serves as a form of artistic representation of political conflict and a response to injustices. I hope this research will increase understanding of an iconic South American artist and of the depth of achievement of textile arts in Uruguay.



# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

**Socially innovative student learning connects institutions and communities to simultaneously meet educational goals and social outcomes. It may sound like quite a contemporary approach to education; however, this practice has long been a component of the human ecology's undergraduate degree through the practicum program.**



Virtual site visit with family science student, Christine Videna (upper-right corner) with her field supervisory team: Linh Nguyen (upper-left); Angie Undheim (lower-left); Lisa Bumstead (lower-right). Practicum coordinator: Sherry Ann Chapman (upper-centre box).



## The Human Ecology Practicum Marks 50th Anniversary in 2022

For 50 years, the Household Economics / Home Economics / Human Ecology unit at the U of A has created experiential-learning opportunities for students in partnership with private, non-profit and government sectors. Near the end of their undergraduate human ecology degrees, students are required to prepare to launch their careers through the **200-hour practicum placement**, for which they earn academic credit.

Students are introduced to their placement sites and mentored by professionals in the field. Throughout the practicum, students learn and contribute to their sites in ways that are mutually beneficial for the student and the host organization. In partnership, the students, community partners and the university maintain on-going, meaningful connections to help students develop as human ecologists.

The Human Ecology Practicum program **field supervisors received the 2021 UAlberta Advocate Award** for connecting students with surrounding communities to promote scholarship and work experience across the province and country, as well as around the globe.

With the beginning of online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Human Ecology Practicum program responded to the societal shift in workplace practices. In March 2020, students and field supervisors suddenly found themselves in virtual workplaces. Since then, practicum coordinator Sherry Ann Chapman continues to update the program according to the changing nature of workplaces. Rather than assuming an in-person placement, she now arranges with field supervisors for in-person, hybrid and fully virtual experiences, relative to the nature of a placement site and its work. As society changes, so too does the practicum program.



Photo credit: Richard Siemens

Anne Bissonnette and Vlada Blinova (pictured L to R) show items in the Anne Lambert Clothing and Textiles Collection.

## Connecting Students, Researchers and the Community

The **Anne Lambert Clothing and Textiles Collection** is a unique and integral resource for teaching, learning and research. The collection is the only major Canadian clothing and textile collection held by a university and is known for its scholarly expertise and adherence to professional museum standards. Access to the collection facilitates community outreach and student recruitment.

The collection began in 1972 and received its honorific naming in 2017 to recognize Anne Lambert's pivotal role as a former curator and dress historian in building the collection over her 36-year career at the U of A. The collection houses more than 20,000 artefacts dating from present day to centuries ago, comprising men's, women's and children's everyday and luxury apparel and accessories from around the world. Textile-making is also referenced in the collection and items such as looms, spindles, needlework tools, patterns, historical fashion magazines and photographs are included in the collection's holdings.

### Exploring the Collection

Visitors, including the public, are welcome to view the exhibitions in the Human Ecology Gallery. To enable even greater access, curator Anne Bissonnette and collections manager Vlada Blinova recently worked on **a series of virtual exhibitions** and **a virtual tour of the collection**. Artefacts in the collection are accessible to students, instructors and researchers.





## Ties to the Vanier Institute of the Family

Professor Emeritus Norah Keating was recently appointed chair of the board of directors of the **Vanier Institute of the Family**, a national organization focused on enhancing family well-being through its collaboration with networks of researchers, educators and policymakers. Keating's professional career has been spent understanding and supporting families across the lifecourse, generational relations in families, families and aging, and family care.

Keating is a Professor of Rural Aging at Swansea University; Co-Director of Research on Aging, Policies and Practice at the University of Alberta; Extraordinary Professor, North-West University, South Africa; and Director of the International Issues on Aging.

# Faculty & Staff Directory

## Family Science Research Area



### **RHONDA BREITKREUZ - PROFESSOR AND CHAIR**

As a social policy scholar, Breitzkreuz researches the ways in which specific policies affect well-being, social equality and access to resources for individuals and families. She is currently the lead investigator for an international project exploring the economic empowerment of women in seven countries.

Photo credit: Supplied



### **JANET FAST - PROFESSOR**

Fast's primary research area is the economics of aging and the paid work and unpaid care work of family members. Her research addresses family, labour, health and continuing care policy issues and the intersection of work and care across the lifecourse.

Photo credit: Supplied



### **PUSHPANJALI DASHORA - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

Dashora's research focuses on marginalized populations and child and adolescent development, as well as the coping strategies and mental health of youth and families experiencing homelessness.



### **ADAM GALOVAN - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

Galovan's research explores how couples negotiate their relationships across many contexts and roles (e.g., partner, parent, wage earner) in ways that can lead to healthy and productive lives.



## Family Science Research Area



### **MATTHEW JOHNSON - PROFESSOR**

Johnson's research program is centered on the understanding of couple relationships. His research interests include intimate relationship development from the transition from adulthood to midlife, with a focus on understanding behaviours and cognitions that contribute to relational and individual well-being.



### **DEANNA WILLIAMSON - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

The primary focus of Williamson's research is the conceptualization and measurement of family functioning in contemporary families. Her recent research examines how families with young children comprising diverse compositions, socioeconomic circumstances and ethno-cultural origins function in their everyday lives.

## Textile Science Research Area



### **JANE BATCHELLER - FACULTY SERVICE OFFICER**

Batcheller's research focuses on three main areas: protective clothing and equipment, standardized textile testing and archeological textiles. She is the principal investigator for the Protective Clothing and Equipment Research Facility.



### **PATRICIA DOLEZ - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

The primary focus of Dolez's research is on protective clothing and personal protective equipment and related industry applications that will lead to improvements in occupational health and safety.

## Textile Science Research Area



### **RACHEL MCQUEEN - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

McQueen's research examines the development and retention of odour in textiles including related fabric characteristics, evaluation methods and odour control technologies. Her recent work on consumers' clothing disposal practices has a strong sustainability focus.

Photo credit: Supplied

## Material Culture Research Area



### **ANNE BISSONNETTE - PROFESSOR; CURATOR, ANNE LAMBERT CLOTHING & TEXTILES COLLECTION**

Bissonnette's research is rooted in dress and textile history, and examines the intertwining of fashion with political, cultural and social histories. Her research interests include analysis of the cut and construction of clothing and the interaction between clothing and the human body.



### **VLADA BLINOVA - FACULTY SERVICE OFFICER; MANAGER, ANNE LAMBERT CLOTHING & TEXTILES COLLECTION**

Blinova is responsible for the administrative management of the Anne Lambert Clothing & Textiles Collection, and she collaborates on the exhibition of collection artefacts. Her research interests include political influences in textile design and sustainable fashion.



## Material Culture Research Area



### **ARLENE OAK - PROFESSOR**

Oak's research aims to improve understanding of how people live with and through things. Her main research interest is in the relationships between objects, language and perceptions of personal, social and cultural identity, with particular focus on the processes of designing and making.



### **MEGAN STRICKFADEN - PROFESSOR**

Strickfaden's research focuses on understanding complexities within design environments and products for older adults, caregivers and persons with disabilities, and involves extensive international collaborations. Issues related to how material environments can aid in caring for older adults is one of her ongoing research interests.



### **SHERRY ANN CHAPMAN - FACULTY SERVICE OFFICER; PRACTICUM PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

With research interests in community-based research and experiential learning, Chapman facilitates the 200-hour senior undergraduate practicum program including facilitating pre-placement course delivery, applications, field supervisor relationships through to final evaluations of completed programs.

## Administration



**SARAH GOODING –  
ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT  
MANAGER**

Photo credit: Supplied



**CHRISTIE NOHOS –  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT;  
OFFICE MANAGER**

Photo credit: Gin Quist Photography

## Thank you to Lori Moran

Lori Moran was the administrative professional officer (APO) in the Department of Human Ecology from 2006 to 2020. As the department's APO, she oversaw the budget, supervised support staff and sessional instructors, taught several courses, played a key role in the initiation of the BSc in Fashion Business Management program, and managed the day-to-day operations. Most recently, Lori worked with us to create the 2023 annual report.

Thank you for your many years of service, your ongoing contributions to our department and your never-ending involvement with our human ecology network, Lori.



# Leading with Purpose.



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**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL, LIFE  
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