



MOTHERING & ALBINISM

Newsletter: February 2020

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to what lies ahead on this project, as well as with our respective work in 2020. In this newsletter we provide key updates, acknowledging that much is in process as we start the year.

Announcements

A victory to celebrate alongside the team at UTSS regarding a review of Miriam Stafford's case by a UN tribunal. Miriam is a woman with albinism, only 36 years old, who was violently attacked by a man known to her in 2011. She lost both of her arms in the attack. The UN tribunal found that the Tanzanian court's ruling that due to Miriam's poor eyesight she could not have correctly identified the attacker, violated her rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, of which Tanzania is a signatory. The recommendation is for compensation for Miriam, ensuring that her health and wellbeing are looked after. While it is unclear if the Tanzanian Judiciary will retry this case, it provides an international criticism of the original trial. The following article, rightly attributes this success to UTSS who was responsible for appealing to the UN tribunal to intervene:

<https://www.ippmedia.com/en/editorial/watershed-judgment-miriam-stafford%E2%80%99s-case-has-vital-lessons>

Global Albinism Alliance – Pilot

This new alliance, of which IK is a founding member and organizer, was formed when civil society groups representing six continents gathered in Paris (UNESCO headquarters) January 26 – 28th, 2020 to lay the foundation for an international coalition to combat the attacks, stigmatization, and discrimination people with albinism face worldwide. Well done, IK! For more details, see:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/01/28/people-albinism-form-first-ever-global-alliance>

Follow the work of IK's Mandate [here](#)

Fieldwork Plans

The project is heading to South Africa this summer (June/July). We are planning to stop in Tanzania en route to South Africa. Dates to be confirmed. Emma is working on obtaining research visa – all things going smoothly, we are on track to be there sometime in June.

Our fieldwork requires research ethics clearance from our respective universities. We have completed HREB applications at 5 universities and have an additional 4 letters of support.

Update on Data Analysis

Our undergraduate Research Assistant, Ms. Meghann Buyco, has been hard at work sifting through a lot of data from the meta-narrative literature review (129 peer reviewed articles and 86 grey literature articles). We are nearly ready to move into the writing stage for this aspect of the project, which will pull together much of what brought us to this current project on mothering.

Analysis on the Tanzania fieldwork to date has focused on data relevant to Emma's thesis. Once the thesis work is completed, Emma and Meghann will complete coding the rest of the data on mothering and albinism. Emma is closing in on a thesis defense date in mid-March!

Manuscript on Stigma

In Fall 2019 we were invited to submit a manuscript to The Journal of Foundation of Science for a special issue on albinism and stigma. We (Sheryl, Barb, IK, Elvis, and Emma) submitted the manuscript in mid-January based on data from Tanzania, and with acknowledgements to the Mothering & Albinism research team.

Blog www.motheringandalbinism.com

See our recent posts by Meghann, Emma, and Barb!

Upcoming Interdisciplinary Gender Café at Trinity Western University featuring Ikponwosa Ero as Special Guest



The poster features a photograph of a young girl with braided hair and an elderly woman with a headscarf. Below the photo, the title "Gender, Albinism & Human Rights Café" is written in white on a purple background. The date and time "February 11, 2020 6:45pm" are listed, along with the location "Block Hall Neufeld Science Centre Trinity Western University". The featured guest is "Ikponwosa Ero", a United Nations Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism. An RSVP deadline of "February 4" and the email "angle.koslowsky@twu.ca" are provided. Logos for the Gender Studies Institute, Mothering & Albinism, Centre for Equity & Global Engagement, Trinity Western University, and School of Nursing are at the bottom.

When: February 11, 2020 @ 6:45 p.m. PST

Where: Block Hall, Neufeld Science Centre, TWU & streamed online via [TWU School of Nursing Facebook page](#).

A fascinating evening of dialogue on gender, albinism, and human rights, featuring international expert, human rights lawyer, and advocate, Ikponwosa Ero, who has completed multiple UN country visits to monitor and promote human rights for persons with albinism.

Hosted by: Mothering & Albinism Project, Centre for Equity and Global Engagement, Gender Studies Institute, and TWU School of Nursing

Project Team

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