

### ***Editorial Introduction***

The *Canadian Journal on Family and Youth* (CJFY) is published by the MacEwan Institute for Research on Family and Youth (MIRFY), at Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. CJFY is an interdisciplinary and peer-reviewed journal. Responding to the diversification of scholarly interests and regional concerns, CJFY is the ideal outlet for Canadian and comparative scholarship on the changing dynamics of the family and the social situation of youth. The Journal welcomes scholarly debates on family and youth-related themes that are presented in accessible language from any disciplinary perspective, along with book reviews and research reports on family and youth issues. The Journal also includes a section for undergraduate papers and we ask faculty to encourage their students to submit strong term papers for consideration in this section.

The MacEwan Institute for Research on Family and Youth (MIRFY) is an interdisciplinary organization designed to support, facilitate, and promote research on family and youth especially regarding issues and experiences of Canadian youth and families in a society of cultural and social diversity. Specifically, MIRFY coordinates and promotes connections between College faculty and students researching family and youth issues, and link their work with other academics and research institutions in Canada and abroad. In doing so we anticipate that we will enhance the reputation of Grant MacEwan College as a degree granting institution. Information is disseminated through advocacy, education and communication to educators, researchers and students, social service professionals and the Canadian public.

The Journal is also an attempt to respond to the realities of the academic department in which it is located. The Department of Sociology at Grant MacEwan College offers a breadth and depth of courses that prepare students for a broad scope of educational possibilities. Specifically, the Department has two particular areas of specialization: criminology and deviance; family, youth and diversity. This inaugural issue may not contain articles or ideas from the two major areas of concentration (that will not be the objective or aim of any one issue or volume). It, nevertheless, brings a

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wealth of, material relevant to the sociological mandate of critical and insightful analyses in order to forge a better understanding of our social world.

The first edition contains two significant articles and three book reviews (two from undergraduate students). In the first article, Baker examines the fate of child welfare programs in an era of neo-liberal restructuring in ‘liberal’ welfare states in North America and Europe. She identifies the historical forces that underpinned welfare legislation for children, specifically children’s rights and welfare. Paying close attention to the changing role of the state and its ability to fund welfare policies, as a result of or a response to neo-liberal forces, Baker examines the contemporary state of welfare policies and their implications for children. The comparative context of Baker’s paper lays bear how different societies respond to policies that assume common outcomes.

Thiessen, in the second article, employs the concept of resilience, within a broader sociological framework on acceptance of cultural goals and access to the means of achieving these goals, to address educational outcomes. Utilizing the first three cycles of the Canadian Longitudinal Youth in Transition Survey (YITS), the paper focuses on the educational pathways of Canadian youth who at age 15 scored below the level considered necessary for effective functioning in a knowledge-based society. Using multinomial logistic regression, Thiessen identifies a variety of factors and their sources to account for resilience and educational outcomes.

Together, the two articles provide a powerful first volume for the Journal. Both articles are theoretical grounded and address salient aspects of the lives of children and the youth in diverse empirical settings. The three book reviews round up the volume. Languedoc’s review of a book on sexuality is not only timely, but also relevant to our understanding of youth culture in this day and age of neo-liberal globalization and its homogenizing claims on culture. The reviews by Minaker and Wodinski illuminate the experiences of women as mothers. The former review concerns issues of motherhood, while the latter is on women dealing with substance abuse during pregnancy.