

Dr. Sheila Harms, MD, FRCPC, PhD (candidate) & Anita Acai, MSc, PhD (candidate)



HEALTH SCIENCES
Psychiatry & Behavioural
Neurosciences

Research Work



Dr. Sheila Harms:

I am interested in education scholarship within the department and am particularly interested in mentoring learners to take on educational projects to enhance their scholarship abilities. My PhD focus is on looking at critical histories in Psychiatry and how they have influenced the pedagogical experience as a Psychiatry educator. I am particularly interested in thinking about medical education using psychodynamic concepts as they are applied to learning. My research foci are broad and are attempting to capture phenomenology that are both relevant and pressing in contemporary medical education pedagogy.



Anita Acai:

My doctoral research in the [Performance Science Lab](#) involves investigating how principles of social and cognitive psychology can be applied to improve training for physicians, surgeons, and other health professionals. To this end, I am currently studying the group decision-making processes of competence committees, which assess residents' progression through competency-based medical training programs. I also maintain active [research interests](#) in a number of other areas of health professions education, gender equity and work-life integration in higher education, and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

Current Research Projects Include:

- Wellness study; qualitative study looking at perceptions of wellness as described by faculty and learners in the department.
- Competency Committee Project: Rating the quality of data in competence committees using a standardized tool
- One Room Schoolhouse; writing up data of mixed methods project
- 2018 Research Marketplace at McMaster University; writing up findings for presentation and publication
- McMUST Global Mental Health Partnership; data analysis of evaluation data and write up of lessons learned in partnership

Engagement Opportunities

Introductory Level

- Literature review
- Abstract Development
- Poster Development

Intermediate Level

- Data analysis (qualitative and quantitative)
- Data interpretation
- Writing portions of a manuscript

Advanced Level

- Using available data to write a manuscript with supervision

If you are interested in learning more, please leave your contact information with the Research Office and/or contact Dr. Sheila Harms at harmssh@hhsc.ca or Anita Acai at acaia@mcmaster.ca