



*Supporting community-engaged, interdisciplinary research in health, education, relationships and development of infants, children, adolescents, emerging adults and families everywhere.*



Faculty of Health

*Child and Youth  
Research that  
Matters*

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**LaMarsh Centre for  
Child and Youth  
Research**



**YORK**  
UNIVERSITÉ  
UNIVERSITY  
redefine THE POSSIBLE.

## OUR RESEARCH

There are three common themes among our research programs:

First, our **faculty members are engaged in research on youth**, defined as the first two decades of the life span. The problems of youth are of broad concern not only to the academic community but also to society at large.

Second, our **faculty members examine factors and conditions that place youth at risk for maladaptive outcomes, both physical and psychological**. Risk factors of interest include ecological, social, behavioral, and physical conditions that impede well-being. This focus includes applied research that investigates programs designed to prevent risky behavior, such as violence or HIV/AIDS risk.

Finally, our **faculty members are engaged in programs that promote positive physical or mental health in youth**. The scientific study of risk implies a complementary examination of factors which protect against risk and promote resiliency. LaMarsh faculty members are committed to research which promotes positive youth development.

The following topics are but a select sample, representative of areas currently under investigation by LaMarsh members:

- Bullying
- Girls' aggression
- Dating Violence
- Healthy peer and romantic relationships
- Cognitive flexibility in childhood
- Violence prevention programs in schools
- Risky sexual behaviour
- HIV/AIDS education and risk
- Epidemiology of childhood injury
- Youth sport and psychosocial influences
- Developmental trajectories of mood disorders in Aboriginal youth
- Perfectionism
- Injury prevention
- Media constructions of gender identity and violence
- Decision making and cognitive abilities in youth with ADHD
- Anxiety prevention among youth from high-risk communities
- Developmental asynchrony and resiliency in teenage mothers
- Preventing maltreatment in parent-infant dyads
- Parenting and culture
- Risk in vulnerable infants of immigrant and transnational families
- Knowledge mobilization in child mental health

## MISSION

*The LaMarsh Centre is a collaborative group of faculty and students that supports community-engaged interdisciplinary research in health, education, relationships and development of infants, children, adolescents, emerging adults and families everywhere.*

### Safety and Health in Society

The LaMarsh Centre works diligently to influence policy, provide research based advocacy, promote healthy development and embrace diversity in all aspects of its work.

### Scientific Excellence

The LaMarsh Centre strives to adopt a rigorous approach in research which leads to accurate results that promote innovation and can be externally validated.

### Research into Practice

The goals of the LaMarsh Centre are to mobilize knowledge among the community while being focused on issues which relate to both its local and global community.

### A Collaborative Learning Environment

The LaMarsh Centre works with a number of agencies in order to stimulate learning, exchange ideas, develop knowledge and skills as well as provide student mentorship.



**YORK RESEARCH:  
REAL-WORLD CHALLENGES  
DEMAND DIFFERENT ANGLES,  
DIFFERENT APPROACHES,  
AND DIFFERENT ATTITUDES.**

## HISTORY

The LaMarsh Centre was established in 1980. It was Ontario's first research unit to study violence and the only Centre in Toronto to study youth violence and youth at risk. The Centre is named for the late Honourable Judy LaMarsh who was a law professor at York University, Member of Parliament, and Author. LaMarsh led a Royal Commission on *Violence and the Media* which led to the creation of this important Research Centre. The Centre's research agenda has recently shifted from its original focus on violence to a focus on children and youth, including children and youth at risk.

## RESEARCH PARTNERS

The LaMarsh Centre collaborates with universities and research institutes, both locally and internationally. LaMarsh faculty members engage in common scientific, educational, and community projects that promote the well-being of youth. The Centre supports international exchanges, conferences and workshops on cutting edge topics.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The LaMarsh Centre transfers scientific findings about youth to the community through partnerships with agencies and non-governmental organizations. These partnerships bridge research, intervention and program evaluation to enhance youth programs with the most current scientific knowledge.

## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND SUPPORT

The LaMarsh Centre is home to many graduate students and supports their studies through the LaMarsh Child/Youth Research Award. Eligible graduate students are conducting their graduate research under the supervision of Centre faculty members who are engaged in research that advances the goals of the Centre.

The LaMarsh Centre, with the support of the Brazilian Ball Fund, sponsors many educational activities that improve the lives of children and youth. Activities include; LaMarsh Talks (bi-monthly speaker series), Annual Graduate Student Symposium, research supervision and mentoring. We welcome scholars from across Canada, as well as international scholars.

## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AT YORK UNIVERSITY

York researchers are undertaking innovative research of local, national and international significance. York is a leading force in the development and mobilization of knowledge that provides insight into the scientific, economic, social and cultural issues affecting our world.

Our interdisciplinary and collaborative research tackles real-world challenges with real-world solutions in areas such as health, sustainability, international studies and culture and entertainment.

York's collaborative focus enables researchers to push beyond traditional research methods and develop truly unique solutions. By challenging the ordinary and delivering the unexpected, York is redefining university research in Canada.