

# **RESEARCH REFLECTIONS: STUDENT EXPERIENCES OF A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW ON SOCIAL CARE STRATEGIES FOR OLDER ADULTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**Presented by Research Assistants  
Beverly Michel Baluyot (she/her) & Elaine Tran (she/her)**

Primary Investigator (PI): Anna Azulai, PhD, MSW, RSW, RCSW, LCSW  
Co-Applicant: Hongmei Tong, PhD, MSW, RSW  
Collaborator: Alison Pitcher

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## Funded by:

- Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
- Insight Development Grant (IDG)

## Ethics approval from:

- MacEwan University's Office of Research and the Research Ethics Board

## Registration submitted to:

- Prospero



# PRESENTATION AGENDA

## 01

- What is a Living Systematic Review?
- Current study
- Research Timeline
- Status Report

## 02

- Reflections on our roles
- Key learnings

## 03

- Skills and strengths for prospective research assistants



# What is a Living Systematic Review?

- Rigorous and robust knowledge synthesis method for synthesizing all relevant research and scholarly literature on a particular subject regularly

## Current study

- Goal: To synthesize evidence and establish an understanding of current social care strategies in geriatric residential care facilities



# RESEARCH TIMELINE

Preparation Phase (Jul 2021 – Aug 2021)

Data Collection Phase (Sep 2021 – Jun 2022)

- Stream 1 (Sep 2021 – Dec 2021)
- Stream 2 (Jan 2022 – Jun 2022)

Data Analysis Phase (Jan 2022 – Dec 2022)

Knowledge Mobilization Phase (Jan 2023 – May 2023)



# STATUS REPORT (PRISMA MAP)

## IDENTIFICATION OF STUDIES VIA DATABASES AND REGISTERS

IDENTIFICATION

Records identified from\*:  
Databases (n = 86,103)

Records removed before screening:  
Duplicate records removed (n = 30,110)  
Records removed for other reasons (n = 53,597)

SCREENING

Records screened  
(n = 2,396)

Records excluded\*\*  
(n = )

Reports sought for retrieval  
(n = )

Reports not retrieved  
(n = )

Reports assessed for eligibility  
(n = )

Reports excluded:  
Reason 1 (n = )  
Reason 2 (n = )  
Reason 3 (n = )  
etc.

INCLUDED

Studies included in review  
(n = )  
Reports of included studies  
(n = )

# Theme 1: The Research Process is Long, Rigorous, and Time-Consuming



- Challenges with data collection as well as exporting and importing data
  - Zotero
- Challenges lead to opportunities to organize, problem-solve and provide experience into what research is really like

## Theme 2: In a Team, We are Better Together

- In a collaborative research process, communication and teamwork are essential between team members
- Weekly working sessions with goal setting and open communication were especially helpful



## Theme 3: We Have Developed and Grown as Researchers

- As prospective graduate social work students, the opportunity to assist with research has opened our eyes to the how social work research is conducted
- We have developed and gained skills in data mining; citation management software (e.g., Zotero, Rayyan); data management, etc.





# For Prospective Research Assistants



- **Communication**
- **Teamwork**
- **Time management**
- **Patience**
- **Willingness to learn**

# Conclusion

- Research is a long, rigorous, time-consuming process
- Teamwork is essential
- Research assistants' role in research is critical
- Working on research allows for professional growth

**Thank you for  
your  
attendance!**

**ANY QUESTIONS?**

# References

Page M.J., McKenzie J.E., Bossuyt P.M., Boutron I., Hoffmann T.C., Mulrow C.D., Shamseer, L., Tetzlaff, J. M., Akl, E.A., Brennan, S.E., Chou, R., Glanville, J., Grimshaw, J.M., Hrobjartsson, A., Lalu, M.M., Li, T., Loder, E.W., Mayo-Wilson, E., McDonald, S.,... Moher, D. (2021). The PRISMA 2020 statement: An updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. *BMJ*, 372(71), 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.n71>

The Cochrane Collaboration (n.d.). *Living systematic reviews*. Cochrane Community. <https://community.cochrane.org/review-production/production-resources/living-systematic-reviews>