



Department of Health and Society  
**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**  
**SCARBOROUGH**

3 March 2026

Dear Colleagues,

*RE: Adjunct faculty role at Lakehead University's Sociology Department*

I am writing to express my interest in serving as an adjunct faculty member in Lakehead University's Sociology Department. I learned of this opportunity through recent communications with our colleague, Dr. Chris Sanders, whom I have known for about fifteen years. Please find attached my curriculum vitae for your consideration.

I am a sociologist and associate professor at the University of Toronto. I am a scholar of the social organization of knowledge. I research at the confluence of law, medicine, regulation, governance and daily life. I am author of *Screening Out: HIV Testing and the Canadian Immigration Experience* (UBC Press, 2022). This is an institutional ethnography of HIV-related practices in the Canadian immigration medical program. It earned book awards from the Canadian Studies Network (Best Book in Canadian Studies) and the Canadian Sociological Association (Best Book Honourable Mention). From this body of work, I made the documentary film *The Unmaking of Medical Inadmissibility*. In 2022, the film debuted at the University of Amsterdam and was shown at the Canadian Labour International Film Festival in union and community halls across northern and southern Canada, and points east and west. Most recently, with sociologists Agnieszka Doll (UBCO) and Kevin Walby (Winnipeg), I published *Political Activist Ethnography: Studies in the Social Relations of Struggle* (Athabasca University Press, 2024).

There are three domains in which I could foresee contributing to your department. In the realm of education, I have taught and supervised students in both official languages at undergraduate and both levels of graduate study since joining the University of Toronto in 2013. I have designed a dozen courses in which sociological theory and method are intertwined. I could envision extending service within a student committee. Regarding scholarship, I read your Department's December 2025 newsletter, which documents sixty-years of achievement in the areas of "critical inquiry and community engagement" (p.1). In my current book project, an analysis of Dorothy Smith's ideas within the development of Canadian sociology in the 1960s and 1970s, I am exploring the Canadianization movement, in which members of your department were important figures. I will necessarily come up to consult Lakehead's archival records during my sabbatical starting this July. Perhaps a public exhibition on the topic, jointly organized with support from your institution and mine, could emerge. (Examples of my work in this area include a UBC-UT [exhibition](#) I co-organized and an [exhibition](#) I co-curated with my librarian colleague.) Finally, concerning public sociology, I am Co-President (with Raymond Blake, Regina) of the Canadian Studies Network. I could imagine involving you and your students in this scholarly public-facing network through its intellectual activities (e.g., conferences, screenings) or governance activities (e.g., advisory board, board of directors).

Thank you for your consideration of my application. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Laura Bisailon'.

Dr. Laura Bisailon  
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Department of Health and Society  
University of Toronto  
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Att.: Curriculum vitae