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Call for Research Proposals:

Exploring Mental Health and Intersectionality in Universities

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A key component of OPIRG's mandate is to foster campus and community based research to inspire and inform our work for a more socially and environmentally just Kingston and Queen's. Mental health is a highly-promoted issue at Queen's University and much of this discussion takes place in the context of academic stress and mental illness. While these are important topics, other factors such as social identity and experiences of marginalization (such as racism, homophobia, ableism) are often overlooked. OPIRG seeks to explore how these experiences are integrated into our current conversations and ultimately how we can ensure our efforts work for all in our campus community.

OPIRG has allocated funds for a $1000 research grant to facilitate this research, to be granted to a Queen's University student or a collaborative team which includes a Queen's students. This grant will be used to explore how social identity, and marginalization are considered and addressed in our ongoing conversations regarding mental health at Queen's.

Some suggested research topics, but not limited to, are:

- Examination of popular understandings of mental health at Queen's University, and the gaps in support, discussions, and health promotion in regards to social identity
- The effect of social identity and marginalization (e.g. racism, homo/transphobia, class, gender, ability) on mental health, as experienced at Queen's University, or
- A review of currently existing student and university initiatives/organizations/programming from across Canada, and conducting a intersectional analysis exploring who is this work including and who is being left out

This opportunity is open to applicants who:

1. are currently enrolled at Queen's University
2. have a demonstrated interest (academic or activist) in engaging with mental health from an anti-oppressive, intersectional perspective
3. must be able to complete their proposed project no later than August 1 2017.

Interested applicants should submit a 750-word proposal outlining their project, and why they are interested into conducting and facilitating this research. After review of proposals, OPIRG Kingston will coordinate a follow up with selected applicants to further refine and develop shared expectations, the research process, and timelines.

OPIRG strongly encourages applications from undergraduate students, as well as collaborative efforts between multiple academic levels (e.g.undergraduate, graduate, post-doctoral, adjunct, associate and full professors).

For more information about this Request for Proposals please feel free to email info@opirgkingston.org any questions, or queries.

Completed proposals should be submitted to research@opirgkingston.org by November 21 at 4pm.