

The Word

The latest CRIB news, views and announcements

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**THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH &
INNOVATION FOR BLACK
SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS**



**FACTOR - INWENTASH
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

THE CRIB LAUNCHES New Neighbourhood Ambassador Program



The CRIB prides itself in being a community-engaged and community-informed multidisciplinary research centre. As such, The CRIB not only works FOR and WITH Community, but it also believes in the philosophy, “nothing about us, without us”. It is within this context, that The CRIB recently launched its newest initiative, the **Neighbourhood Ambassadors Program (NAP)**.

The NAP employs community members who live and/or work in neighbourhoods disproportionately impacted by homicide for the purpose of co-developing culturally responsive approaches to research, policy, and practice. Neighbourhood Ambassadors (NAs) are trained to leverage their expertise to help reach some of our most vulnerable communities. NAs utilize their skills to listen to the perspectives of the community to understand what is important to them, to respond to their concerns in a collaborative manner, and to improve access to services. In turn, The CRIB provides NAs with professional development and employment opportunities. The CRIB has seen first-hand the positive impact NAs can have from various research projects in the past (e.g., Invisible Wounds). Formally establishing the NAP not only helps to advance the work of The CRIB but expands our ability to work collaboratively across neighbourhoods, service sectors and academic disciplines.

While The CRIB is housed at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work in Toronto, Ontario, the mandate of The CRIB is one that is global. The geographic scope of family across the African diaspora and

the frequency of exposure to cumulative Black death suggests that experiencing the homicide of a loved one traumatically impacts surviving family members and friends of homicide victims far beyond the loss of human life in Canada. Homicide impacts the lives of the victim's family, friends, and communities across the globe. For example, South Africa experiences roughly 18,000 murders each year, 7 times the global rate of homicides.

In March 2023, Dr. Sharpe was invited by the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa to deliver a presentation on the work program of The CRIB. The CRIB extends sincere thanks to Dr. Renee Le Roux Goretsky, Professor Brett Bowman, and Associate Professor Katherine Bain for hosting the meeting. The CRIB looks forward to forging a meaningful partnership with the [University of Witwatersrand](#).



University of Witwatersrand is located in Johannesburg, South Africa and celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2022

2023 AARON ROSEN LECTURE

Beyond a Seat at “The Table”:

Building a Legacy of Research for Black Survivors of Homicide Victims

As the recipient of the Society for Social Work and Research and the Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis, 2023 Aaron Rosen Lecture Award, director of The CRIB, Dr. Tanya Sharpe was honoured to present her lecture entitled, *Beyond a Seat at “The Table”: Building a Legacy of Research for Black Survivors of Homicide Victims”*.

The Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) and the Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis, established the Aaron Rosen Lecture to honor the lifetime achievement of Dr. Rosen and provide the SSWR membership with an annual scholarly lecture that will move the field forward in terms of the integration of practice and research. Recipients of the Aaron Rosen Lecture are selected based upon an accumulated body of significant and innovative scholarship relevant to practice or effective utilization of research in practice.

[To view the lecture, please click here.](#)



CRIB FACULTY AFFILIATE

Notisha Massaquoi

To Lead new Research Project Supported by UofT's Connaught Fund

A new research project, led by CRIB Faculty Affiliate, Dr. Notisha Massaquoi and supported by the University of Toronto's Connaught Fund and developed in collaboration with the Black Research Network (BRN), will bring together experts from across the university to address Canada's racial health gap. The project will receive \$250,000 through the inaugural Connaught Major Research Challenge for Black Researchers, and will support Black health equity research across U of T's three campuses. The project will involve a collaboration among 13 U of T researchers who are looking at the social determinants of health, which are the personal, social, economic, and environmental factors that affect individual and population health. The CRIB serves as a collaborator on the project. [To see the full news story, click here.](#)



Dr. Notisha Massaquoi, CRIB faculty affiliate and assistant professor at U of T Scarborough



THE CRIB PARTICIPATES IN Convening of Black & Brown Gun Violence Research Collective

This summer, The CRIB was pleased to take part in the "soft launch" of the Black & Brown Collective in Chicago, Illinois. The Black & Brown Collective is a union

of multi-disciplinary and cross-organizational scholars who seek to use their various research expertise to fundamentally deepen understanding of, and motivate new action to address, the structural disproportionality of gun violence in Black and Brown communities across North America. Over a dozen federal funders, partnering agencies and philanthropic organizations were in attendance. Dr. Sharpe is a founding Board Member of the Black & Brown Collective.

Invisible Wounds: STORIES OF SURVIVORSHIP

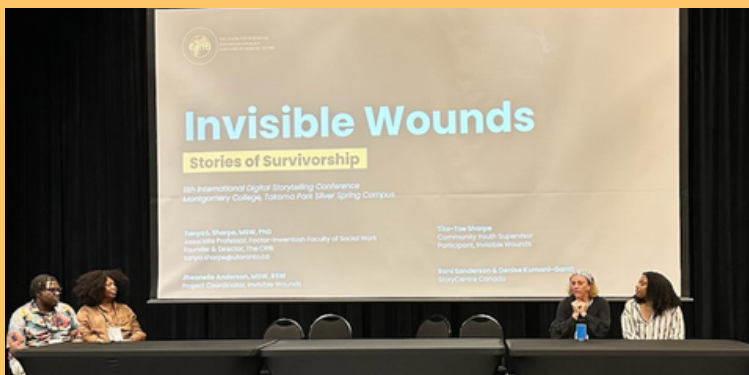
Featured at 11th
International
Digital Storytelling
Conference



Tito-tae Sharpe (Storyteller & Neighbourhood Ambassador, The CRIB), Jheanelle Anderson (Senior Research Assistant, The CRIB) & Dr. Tanya Sharpe (Director, The CRIB)

The CRIB was honoured to be invited to participate and present its short film “**Invisible Wounds: Stories of Survivorship**” at the 11th International Digital Storytelling Conference, entitled, “Radical Listening: Story Work for a Just Future”. The conference was held in the Washington, D.C. region of the United States from June 20th – 23rd 2023 with local hosts - the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC); Montgomery College (MC); the Smithsonian Institution (SI); and StoryCenter. The four day-conference featured four uniquely different experiences of engaging talks, inspiring presenters, receptions, and storytelling tours in the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area, USA.

The CRIB’s delegation was led by director, **Dr. Tanya L. Sharpe** and included, **Jheanelle Anderson** (senior research assistant, The CRIB); **Tito Sharpe** (Neighborhood Ambassador, The CRIB); and supported by our partners from StoryCentre - **Rani Sanderson**...



(StoryCentre, Canadian Projects Director); and Denise Kumani-Gantt (StoryCenter, Facilitator). Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the film “Invisible Wounds: Stories of Survivorship” is a compilation of short films by young Black men who lost family and friends to homicide in Toronto. The film was created as part of a project led by The CRIB in collaboration with StoryCentre Canada and key community-based organizations. Our delegation was not only invited to participate on the “Studio Theatre” panel which was chaired by Sherrie Carroll, but even more notably we were also invited as a **Special Feature of the conferences’ Juneteenth program entitled, “Infusion Film Fest and Art Exhibition – Loud-N-Clear”**.

IN VISIBLE WOUNDS

STORIES OF SURVIVORSHIP

SCIENCE RESEARCH BUILDING, S110
UOFT SCARBOROUGH, 1265 MILITARY TRAIL
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023, 6 - 9:30PM

The CRIB is pleased to announce that it will be hosting the 2nd Film Screening and Panel Discussion of **Invisible Wounds: Stories of Survivorship** on **September 13th**, from **6:00 to 9:30pm** at University of Toronto Scarborough Campus. This is in keeping with our commitment to disseminate the digital stories of participants from our SSHRC funded project (Invisible Wounds: Exploring the Experiences of African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) survivors of homicide victims) via free community screenings to mobilize knowledge and make findings accessible to service providers, and ACB communities that are disproportionately impacted by homicide. Light refreshments will be served. For more details or to register for this free event, please follow the link below.

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)



SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

Roundtable Discussion with mothers of Mending a Crack in the Sky (MCIS) & Keynote Address at Midaynta's Iftar Dinner Gathering



Dr. Tanya Sharpe (Director, The CRIB) listening attentively to the mothers of Mending a Crack in the Sky (MCIS) at Midaynta Community Services

In April, director of The CRIB, Dr. Tanya Sharpe was pleased to be invited by our community partner, Midaynta Community Services to meet and have a meaningful roundtable discussion with the mothers of Mending a Crack in the Sky (MCIS) about how we can work together to

improve our communities. Mending a Crack in the Sky (MCIS) is a dynamic program that consists of a dedicated group of mothers who are passionate about creating safe spaces to heal, mobilize, advocate and navigate relevant systems. The group is inspired by a Somali proverb stating that “if people come together, they can even mend a crack in the sky.” This has also ...



Dr. Tanya Sharpe (Director, The CRIB) delivers Keynote Address at Midaynta's Iftar Gathering



Cross section of the audience at Midaynta's Iftar Gathering



Staff and guests pose for photo at Midaynta's Iftar Gathering

through funding from the Anti-Racism Directorate of Ontario to extended Midaynta's "Healing Network Circle" project last year. After speaking with the mothers of MCIS, Dr. Sharpe was also given the privilege to deliver the Keynote Address at Midaynta's Iftar Gathering.

been the basis of the action plan to address youth radicalization to violence and the alarming rates of youth violence primarily male youth violence. The group holds community meetings in different neighborhoods and takes an active community leadership role to address youth violence. The CRIB was honoured to contribute to this program

KEEPING UP WITH THE CRIB COMMUNITY

CRIB Community Affiliate, YAAACE Lauded for Uplifting Youth Through Sports, Education

The CRIB congratulates its community partner, the Youth Association for Academics, Athletics, and Character Education (Y.A.A.C.E.) for being



Devon Jones, founder of YAAACE, and Dr. Ardavan Eizadirad, executive director of YAAACE

recognized as an incredible community organization uplifting youths in the Jane and Finch area through the offering of various programming related to sport and education. Founded in 2007, Y.A.A.C.E. is a black-led community organization that seeks to engage children and youth from all communities, particularly those from marginalized and under-resourced communities through participation in year-round comprehensive programming and activities (academics, athletics, recreation, technology, and the arts). **[To read the full article click here.](#)**

DOCTORAL FELLOW TRAVONNE EDWARDS

Awarded Connaught PhDs for Public Impact Fellowship

The CRIB extends congratulations to Travonne Edwards, Doctoral Fellow with The CRIB on being named as one of fifteen graduate students who have been awarded a Connaught PhDs for Public Impact Fellowship for 2023-24. The program, which was launched in Fall 2022, aims to support doctoral students who are looking to make a public impact with their research. Each fellow will be awarded a fellowship and additional monetary support towards professional development and project expenses.

Over the course of the 2023-24 academic year, fellows will participate in various professional development and networking opportunities, ending their year-long fellowship with a presentation at an annual showcase.



DR. TANYA SHARPE RE-APPOINTED AS

Factor-Inwentash Chair in Social Work in the Global Community

The Centre for Research & Innovation for Black Survivors of Homicide Victims (The CRIB) congratulates its founding director, Dr. Tanya Sharpe on being re-appointed as the **Factor-Inwentash Chair in Social Work in the Global Community** for another five-year term (2023-2028). In this role, Dr. Sharpe will continue to

build on existing partnerships between the Faculty and organizations representing Canada's diverse population to enhance learning opportunities and improve community services; assist in further developing accessible services for immigrants and refugees; seek and evaluate policies and practices to improve services for individuals, families and communities in Canada and abroad; and further develop the Faculty's existing international collaborations and partnerships with individuals and institutions around the world.



The CRIB is located within the number one ranked university in Canada (University of Toronto) and more specifically within the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, which is ranked second in the world among schools of social work according to the Center for World University Rankings.

Make a Gift to The CRIB

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