**The International Resilience Project**

**The International Resilience Project (IRP)** is a multi-year international research study. Lead: Michael Ungar, Professor at the School of Social Work, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

The purpose of the IRP is to develop a better, more culturally sensitive understanding of how youth around the world effectively cope with the adversities that they face.

The International Resilience Project aims to develop research methods appropriate to the study of health related phenomena in at-risk child and youth populations in different cultural contexts.  The project also attempts to address the arbitrariness in the selection of outcome variables that are chosen to study resilient youth.

The IRP uses a unique cross-cultural approach that employs both quantitative and qualitative research methods to examine individual, interpersonal, family, community and cultural factors associated with building resilience in youth around the world.  During the first 3-year phase of the research, the IRP piloted and integrated innovative quantitative and qualitative research methods and collected data with over 1500 children in 14 communities on five continents.

PARTNERS/SITES: Medellín, Colombia; Tampa, Florida; Hong Kong, China; Moscow, Russia; Tel Aviv, Israel; East Jerusalem and Gaza, Palestine; The Gambia; Njoro, Tanzania; Cape Town, South Africa; and in Canada, Sheshatshiu, Labrador, Halifax and two sites in Winnipeg, one with urban Aboriginal youth, the other with youth in care; urban aboriginal youth in Saskatoon, immigrant youth in Vancouver, youth with disabilities in Montreal, economic migrants in Jinan, China, and refugees in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

*Negotiating Resilience*

A three-year, multi-site, exploratory study, to understand the interactive processes associated with positive development among children and youth who are in transition between two (and possibly more) culturally distinct worlds.  Aims to ascertain what resilience means, as well as the pathways to resilience, from the perspectives of youth who are "out-of-place" in some way and coping well with their displacement (for example, a youth with a physical disability being educated among able-bodied youth; an Aboriginal youth living off-reserve in a urban environment; a multi-ethnic youth whose identity must be negotiated in an ethnically diverse community; and a child refugee displaced from her/his home community).

The project is using an innovative combination of visual methods, observation, qualitative interviews and reciprocity between researchers and youth . Currently, partner research sites include Halifax, Nova Scotia; Montreal, Quebec; Vancouver, British Colombia; and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada; as well as Jinan, China; Guwahati, India; Chiang Mai, Thailand; and the Vaal Triangle, South Africa.

Specific goals:
Document a plurality of protective processes in the lives of youth exposed to significant amounts of risk as defined by different communities, from the perspectives of youth themselves;

* Further the understanding of children as social actors, interacting with their environments in ways that shape, and are shaped by, their social ecologies; and
* Explore gender-based differences in youths' interactions with their social ecologies and the protective processes they engage in.

Another goal is to develop a set of qualitative protocols for gathering videotaped data in the study of resilience across diverse settings.

*The Pathways to Resilience Research Project*

Pathways to Resilience integrates both quantitative and qualitative research methods to examine service use patterns among Atlantic Canadian youth. The goal is to identify pathways most predictive of healthy outcomes for youth who use multiple services.
During the first year of the research, about 600 youth - 200 from each region - will complete the Pathways to Resilience Youth Questionnaire.  Each youth will also nominate a Person Most Knowledgeable (PMK) to complete the PMK version of the PRYM. Findings from this phase of the study will be integrated with qualitative findings from 120 individual interviews conducted with youth in year two.  File reviews will be also used to better understand the nature of services provided to youth.

Specific goals:

Given the current service climate in which service integration is being promoted alongside a growing interest in understanding youth resilience, this study aims to:

1. Better understand patterns of service use among youth who are multiple service users;
2. Determine which sequence of service use best predicts positive outcomes for youth; and
3. Contribute to the growing body of knowledge around best practices with youth informing policy across systems so as to make the most of resources available.

*Stories of transition*

Aims to gain a deeper understanding of the educational and occupational pathways that high school graduates take after graduation. In particular,who and what helped and hindered a successful transition. From 2007 to 2008 one hundred young people in four different Canadian sites were interviewed: Prince Edward Island, Halifax, Guelph, and Calgary. The sample included youth between the ages of 23 and 30 who had taken a variety of educational and occupational pathways after graduating from high school.