

Sophiya Garasia

PhD Candidate in Health Policy, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada

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Program profile: <https://healthsci.mcmaster.ca/hpphd/about-us/current-students>

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Education

2017-2022 (expected)	PhD in Health Policy, McMaster University Area of Specialization: Health Economics Supervisory Committee: Emmanuel Guindon, Arthur Sweetman, Katholiki Georgiades, & Emmanouil Mentzakis Dissertation Title: Health, health care and economic experiences of migrants in Canada
2014-2016	MPH, University of Guelph
2010-2014	BSc(H) Biology with specialization in Physiology, McMaster University

Research Interests

Public Health, Health Economics, Health Policy, and Health Equity

Publications and Working Papers

- Guindon, G.E., Fatima, T., Abbat, B., Bhons, P., & Garasia, S. (2020). Area-level differences in the prices of tobacco and electronic nicotine delivery systems — A systematic review. *Health & Place*, 65.
- Garasia, S., & Dobbs, G. (2019). Socioeconomic determinants of health and access to health care in rural Canada. *University of Toronto Medical Journal*, 96(2) : 44-46.
- Garasia, S. (2019). Clinical outcomes and healthcare use in provincially medically uninsured populations in Canada: A descriptive systematic review. *CHEPA Working Paper*, 19-01.
- Mascarenhas, M., Garasia, S., Berthiaume, P., Corrin, T., Greig, J., Ng, V., et al. (2018). A scoping review of published literature on chikungunya virus. *Plos One*, 13(11): e0207554. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0207554
- Garasia, S., Samaan, Z., Gerstein, H.C., Yousef, S., Engert, J.C., Mohan, V., et al. (2017). Influence of major depression on genetic predisposition to type 2 diabetes: the multiethnic longitudinal EpiDREAM study. *Scientific Reports*, 7:1629. doi:10.1038/s41598-017-01406-y
- Ng, V., Fazil, A., Gachon, P., Deuymes, G., Mascarenhas, M., Garasia, S., et al. (2016). Assessment of the probability of autochthonous transmission of Chikungunya in Canada under recent and projected climate change; implications for Zika virus. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 125(6): 067001. doi: 10.1289/EHP669.
- Garasia, S., Samaan, Z., Gerstein, H.C., Engert, J.C., Mohan, V., Diaz, R., et al. (2015). Lack of association between type 2 diabetes and major depression: epidemiologic and genetic evidence in a multiethnic population. *Translational Psychiatry*, 5(8):e618. doi: 10.1038/tp.2015.113

Research Experience

2017-Present	Research Assistant, Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis, Hamilton, Ontario
2020	Research Collaborator, Department of Economics, McMaster University
2019	Curriculum Development Assistant, MacPherson Institute, McMaster University
2016-2017	Epidemiologist, Public Health Agency of Canada

2016	Communications Intern, World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe)
2015-2016	Research Assistant, Public Health Agency of Canada
2016	Student Consultant, Guelph and Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination
2015-2016	Research Assistant, Department of Population Medicine, University of Guelph
2014	Curriculum Development Assistant
2012-2013	Research Assistant, Department of Psychology & Neuroscience, McMaster University

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant

2019-2021	Introduction to Health and Public Health Economics, McMaster University Master of Public Health Program
2018-2021	Population and Public Health Epidemiology , McMaster University Master of Public Health Program
2018	Introduction to Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact, McMaster University Master of Public Health Program

Guest Lecturer

2021	Political Science Program, Undergraduate-level, McMaster University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title of presentation: Immigration and public policy
2021	Physician Assistant Program, Graduate-level, McMaster University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title of presentation: Overview of Ontario's health care system
2021	Public Health Program, Graduate-level, McMaster University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title of presentation: Long-term care and Home care in Ontario
2020	Political Science Program, Undergraduate-level, McMaster University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title of presentation: Immigrant and Refugee Health: Prescription for Conflict
2020	Health Studies Program, Undergraduate-level, York University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title of presentation: Immigrant and Refugee Health: Prescription for Conflict
2019	Health Policy Program, Undergraduate-level, Wilfred Laurier University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title of presentation: Immigrant and Refugee Health: Prescription for Conflict
2018-2019	Health Sciences Program, Undergraduate-level, McMaster University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title of presentation: Determinants of Population Health
2018	Public Health Program, Graduate-level, McMaster University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title of presentation: The Patient and Affordable Care Act, Obamacare

Invited speaking engagements

2021	Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact Research Day, McMaster University
2020	Open Circle, McMaster University
2020	McMaster Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics
2018	Garasia Girls Hostel, India

Journal peer-review or judge experience

2021	Canadian Journal of Economics
2020	CAHSPR Conference
2019	McMaster Student Public Health Conference
2019	Canadian Public Policy
2019	The Meducator
2018-2019	Scientific Reports
2017-2018	PeerJ

2017

PLOS One

Fellowships, Awards, Scholarships & Grants

2018-2021	Ontario Graduate Scholarship, McMaster University
2020	SSHRC Insight Development Grant
2020	Faculty of Health Sciences Outstanding Achievement Award
2020	Canada Research Data Centre Network Emerging Scholars Grant
2019	Canada Research Data Centre Network Travel Grant
2019	McMaster University Graduate Students Association Travel Grant
2019	McMaster University SPICES Project Grant
2019	Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Programs Excellence Award
2018	Best Poster Award at the CRDCN (Canadian Research Data Centre Network) Conference
2018-2019	George and Alice Rivett Ontario Graduate Scholarship
2018-2019	MacData Graduate Fellowship
2017-2019	Michael DeGroot Scholarship of Excellence
2017-2021	McMaster University Graduate Scholarship

Conference Presentations

2021	Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Plenary, Hamilton, Ontario <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Immigrant status, neighbourhood immigration concentration and mental health in children and youth in Ontario
2021	Building Bridges: Navigating interactions between graduate students and vulnerable or marginalized peoples and communities, Toronto, Ontario <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Designing a discrete choice experiment to study elder-care preferences
2021	Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Plenary, Hamilton, Ontario <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Immigrant status, neighbourhood immigration concentration and mental health in children and youth in Ontario
2019	Canada Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN) Annual Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Heterogenous analysis of the association between acute cardiovascular events and earnings in immigrant populations in Canada using longitudinal data
2019	CIHR Canadian Student Health Research Forum, Winnipeg, Manitoba <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Health and health care utilization of senior immigrants in Canada
2019	Faculty of Health Sciences Research Symposium, Hamilton, Ontario <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Health outcomes and healthcare utilization in provincially uninsured populations in Canada: A systematic review
2018	CRDCN (Canadian Research Data Centre Network) Conference, Hamilton, Ontario <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Health and health care utilization of senior immigrants in Canada
2018	CAHSPR (Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research) Conference, Montreal, Quebec <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Health outcomes and healthcare utilization in provincially uninsured populations in Canada: A systematic review
2018	CAHSPR (Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research) Conference, Montreal, Quebec <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: The impact of supplementary prescription drug insurance and cost-sharing on drug use, health services utilization and health in Canada: a systematic review.
2018	HEI (Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact) Research Day, Hamilton, Ontario <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Health outcomes and healthcare utilization in provincially uninsured populations in Canada: A systematic review
2018	Mapping the Global Dimensions of Policy, Hamilton, Ontario

- Topic: Comparative analysis of the underlying values supporting Canada's decision to quarantine during SARS and Ebola
- 2017 Centre of Public Health and Zoonoses Symposium, Guelph, Ontario
- Topic: A scoping review investigating Chikungunya virus and its competent vectors
- 2017 National Microbiology Laboratory Science Rendez-Vous, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Topic: A scoping review investigating Chikungunya virus and its competent vectors
- 2016 Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) Public Health Conference, Toronto, Ontario
- Topic: A scoping review investigating Chikungunya virus and its competent vectors
- 2016 Sparking Population Health Solutions: An International Summit, Ottawa, Ontario
- Topic: Understanding factors that influence the policy agenda to scale up and not scale back public health interventions
- 2016 University of Guelph Graduate Symposium, Guelph, Ontario
- Topic: A scoping review investigating Chikungunya virus and its competent vectors
- 2016 International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Quebec City, Quebec
- Topic: Engaging students as co-designers and curriculum developers for an introductory university course

Committee and Service Experiences

2018-2020	Student Representative, Labelle Lectureship Series
2018-2020	Student Representative, PhD Health Policy Program Executive Committee
2019-2020	Founder and co-host, The Health Briefs Podcast
2018-2020	Graduate Student Ambassador, McMaster University Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Ambassador Program
2019	Partnerships Liaison, New Frontiers in Health Policy Conference
2017-2018	Blog Contributor, PHSpot
2016	Danish Red Cross
2016	Health Promoter, Special Olympics Ontario
2015-2016	Graduate Representative, Canadian Obesity Network Students and New Professionals (CON-SNP)
2015	Sexual Health Guelph Team, Project Serve Canada

Mentor Experiences

<i>Year</i>	<i>Student name</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Program</i>
2021	Ezza Zalil	Masters	Public Health
2021	Valerie Bishop	Masters	Public Health
2021	Chika Agbassi	Masters	Public Health
2021	Stephanie Clayton	Masters	Public Health
2021	Genevieve Pinnington	Masters	Public Health
2020-2021	Serena Balzer	Third-year undergraduate student	Arts & Sciences
2020-2021	Akwugo Baloga	First-year PhD	Economics
2017-2018	Matthew Yaw	Fourth-year undergraduate	Health Sciences

Certifications and training

2020	MLWiN Software, University of Bristol
2017	Gender-based Analysis Plus, Public Health Agency of Canada
2015	Facilitation Techniques, University of Guelph
2015	ArcGIS software