

## Blake Poland

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Blake Poland was trained in human/social/health geography at McMaster University and joined the University of Toronto's Department of Public Health Sciences in 1995, where he was the Director of the Master's program in Health Promotion for eight years (1999-2007).

His research focuses primarily on the application of a critical social science perspectives and qualitative methodologies to the examination of (a) community development as an arena of practice for health professionals; (b) settings for health promotion (how place matters for health and social care); and (c) environmental health promotion. He is particularly interested in the structures and social processes that create and sustain inequalities in health, and more particularly how health professionals become aware of and successfully resist (or unreflexively reproduce) social exclusion based on class, race, and gender in their work with marginalized communities, as well as how the latter internalize or resist these practices.

His most recent work seeks to apply insights from dialogical traditions from around the world to the development of reflexive public health practice, using arts-informed approaches. In addition to several funded research projects, Dr Poland is active in a couple of CIHR training programs (the health of marginalized groups; health care, technology and place) and two collaborative programs (community development; and healthcare, technology and place).

Dr. Poland is also active on local environmental issues, and is running as a candidate in the next federal election (for the Green Party of Canada in the riding of Oakville).

Dr. Poland earned his master's and Ph.D. degrees in geography at McMaster University. Before joining the University of Toronto, he was a research scientist with the Addiction Research Foundation (now CAMH) and a SSHRC post-doctoral fellow at the Centre for Health Promotion at the University of Toronto.

## **Selected Publications**

**Health promotion in Canada: Perspectives and future prospects.** *Revista Brasileira em Promoção da Saude (Brazilian Journal of Health Promotion)*. 20(1), 2007, pp. 3-11.

**Focus group research and “the patient’s view.”** *Social Science and Medicine*. 63(8), 2006, pp. 2091-2104. Co-authors: P. Lehoux and G. Daudelin.

**Health psychology and social action.** *Journal of Health Psychology*. 11(3), 2006, pp. 379-384. Co-author: M. Murray.

**The social context of smoking: The next frontier in tobacco control?** *Tobacco Control*. 15, 2006, pp. 59-63. Co-authors: K. Frohlich, R.J. Haines, E. Mykhalovskiy, M. Rock, and R. Sparks.

**“Working at the margins” or “leading from behind”? A Canadian study of hospital-community collaboration.** *Health & Social Care in the Community*. 13(2), 2005, pp. 125-135. Co-authors: H. Graham, E. Walsh, P. Williams, L. Fell, J.M. Lum, J. Polzer, S. Syed, S. Tobin, G. Kim, and G. Yardy.

**Family, friend or foe? Critical reflections on the relevance and role of social capital in health promotion and community development.** *Social Science and Medicine*. 60(12), 2005, pp. 2819-2832. Co-author: S. Wakefield.

**How place matters: Unpacking technology and power in health and social care.** *Health & Social Care in the Community*. 13(2), 2005, pp. 170-180. Co-authors: P. Lehoux, D. Holmes, and G. Andrews.

**Building capacity in community health action research: Towards a framework of training guidelines.** *Action Research*. 2(4), 2004, pp. 389-408. Co-authors: G. Nelson, M. Murray, and E. Maticka-Tyndale.

**Drug use, risk and urban order: Examining Safe Injection Sites (SIS) as “governmentality.”** *International Journal of Drug Policy*. 15, 2004, pp. 357-365. Co-authors: B. Fischer, S. Turnbull, and E. Haydon.

**Assumptions and values of community health psychology.** *Journal of Health Psychology*. 9(2), 2004, pp. 323-333.

**Working with Toronto neighbourhoods toward developing indicators of community capacity.** *Health Promotion International*. 18(4), 2003, pp. 339-350.

**Involving street youth in peer harm reduction education: The challenges of evaluation.** *Canadian Journal of Public Health*. 93(5), 2002, pp. 344-348. Co-authors: E. Tupker, K. Breland

**Transcription quality**, in J. Gubrium and J. Holstein, eds., *Handbook of Interview Research*, Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, 2001.

**Community action success in public health: Are we using a ruler to measure a sphere?** *Canadian Journal of Public Health* 92(2), 2001, pp. 90-94. Co-authors: E. Rajkumar, M. Boutilier, S. Tobin.

**A policy context for community development practice in public health: A Canadian case study,** *Journal of Public Health Policy* 21(1), 2000, pp. 5-19. Co-authors: M. Boutilier and S. Tobin.

**Settings for health promotion: Linking theory and practice.** Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 2000. Co-editors: L. Green and I. Rootman.

**Wealth, equity and health care: A critique of a population health perspective on the determinants of health,** *Social Science and Medicine* 46(7), 1998, pp. 785-798. Co-authors: D. Coburn, A. Robertson, and J. Eakin, with members of the Critical Social Science in Health Group.