

Community-based collaborative research, working toward a society in which the wellbeing of women and families is paramount, resulting in their equity, empowerment, and prosperity since 1979.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 11

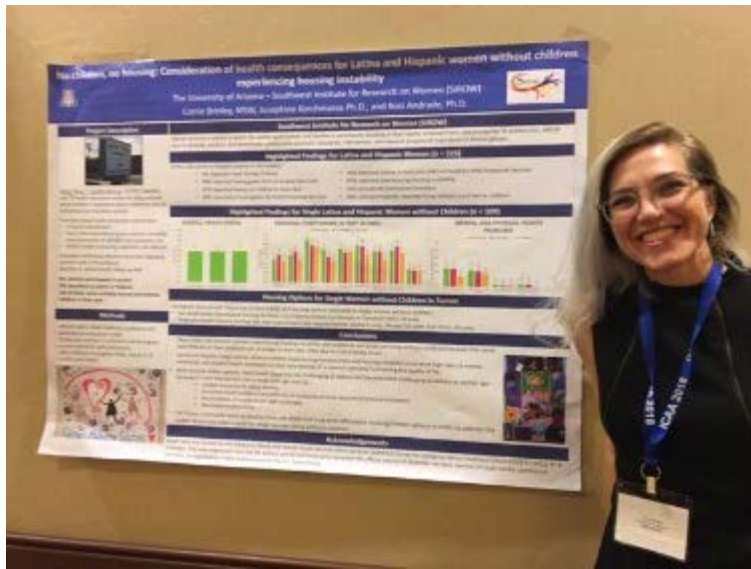
Save the date for SIROW's 40th Anniversary

More information to come!

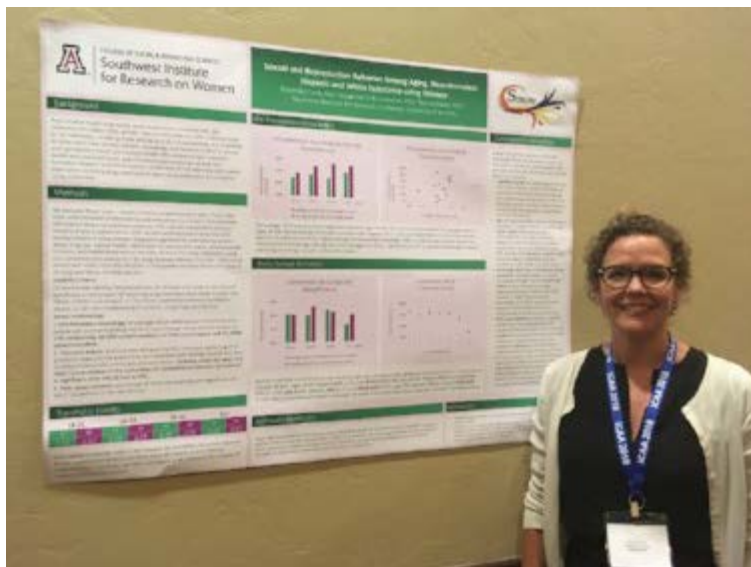
SIROW Represents at Aging in the Americas Conference Poster Session

By Franziska Frank

The **2018 International Conference on Aging in the Americas (ICAA)** was held in Tucson from September 18-20 at the Westward Look Windham Grand Resort. The conference was sponsored by the University of Arizona College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, School of Sociology, Care, Health & Society; Arizona Center on Aging; College of Humanities Religious Studies & Classics, and The Flinn Foundation. The 10th installment of the annual ICAA focused on Latino aging and health in social, institutional, and environmental context. This year's ICAA was organized by scholars from the University of Arizona (Terrence Hill), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Flavia Andrade) and the Instituto Nacional De Geriatria Mexico (Mariana López Ortega). Over 40 researchers, primarily from the United States and Mexico, presented their dynamic work about health determinants, health disparities, and healthcare with a focus on the Latino populations of the United States and Mexico. The Southwest Institute for Research on Women was well represented at this conference, as three SIROW scholars (Corrie Brinley, Franziska Frank and Dr. Stephanie Murphy) contributed with their work to the poster session:



[Corrie Brinley's](#) poster (co-authored with [Dr. Josephine Korchmaros](#) and [Dr. Rosi Andrade](#)) focused on aging Latina and Hispanic participants without children experiencing homelessness and housing instability from the Mujer Sana - Healthy Women project. Findings suggest that the mental, emotional, and physical health consequences experienced by aging Latina and Hispanic women without children experiencing homelessness and housing instability impact a woman's personal functioning, quality of life and ability to overcome homelessness. These barriers become more intense and are more challenging to address as women age, which highlights the need for housing dedicated to women living without children.



[Franziska Frank's](#) poster (also co-authored with [Dr. Korchmaros](#) and [Dr. Andrade](#)) also used data from the Mujer Sana – Healthy Women project and focused on sexual behavior among aging, near-homeless Hispanic and White substance-using women. Data indicate that older women had greater reproductive health literacy, i.e., achieving higher scores in knowledge about contraceptives that help preventing HIV infection. Literature suggests women who have experienced a high number of traumatic events are more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior, and a high frequency of sexual intercourse. In this sample, the authors found a high rate of multiple sex partners, and a very high frequency of unprotected sexual activity. However, increased trauma was not associated with an increase in risky sexual behavior.



[Dr. Stephanie Murphy](#) and [Dr. Korchmaros](#)' poster highlighted a collaborative project with Dr. Susan Shaw, Associate Professor of Public Health at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a 13-member multidisciplinary research team. The Medication Adherence, Health Literacy and Cultural Health Beliefs Study (conducted at a community health clinic in Springfield, Massachusetts) examines individual, cultural, and system factors related to medication adherence for people living with chronic disease. For this presentation, Drs. Murphy and Korchmaros examined age differences in the strategies Hispanic individuals use to help them take their medications how and when they are supposed to - referred to as medication adherence. This study found that self-reported medication adherence was low for all age groups. In addition, the study found both consistency and variation across age groups in the use of medication adherence strategies. The age differences in medication adherence across the groups might be due to experiences of different age-related barriers to taking medication (e.g., spousal/family assistance or social support, confidence in memory, technological literacy, competing priorities) and highlights the need for consideration of age-related cognitive strengths and limitations when healthcare providers counsel patients on best practices for medication adherence. For more information, visit <https://rxhl.arizona.edu/>.

Stakeholders Unite to Prevent and Treat Opioid Misuse

by Courtney Waters



The 2nd Annual
SOUTHERN ARIZONA
Opioid Misuse
Prevention
SYMPOSIUM
Friday, September 28, 2018

On September 28, 2018, Tamara Sargus and Courtney Waters of SIROW were among hundreds of attendees at the 2nd Annual Opioid Misuse Prevention Symposium. The term misuse, rather than abuse, applies more broadly to include opioid storage and disposal, which may contribute to others' access to opioids. The one-day event, held at the Tucson Convention Center and organized by the Community Prevention Coalition of Pima County, featured a keynote speaker, three panel discussions, and information sharing from several other stakeholders. SIROW's B-Well program was represented among numerous community exhibitors and vendors.

Speakers at the symposium discussed prevention efforts, intervention strategies, and treatment best practices. Root causes of opioid misuse such as untreated childhood trauma, the overprescribing of pain medications, and biological characteristics that make certain individuals susceptible to addiction were also addressed. The symposium wrapped up with an introduction to the Arizona Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse Toolkit, which offered attendees next steps and tools for the tasks ahead.

For years, SIROW has collaborated with dozens of community partners to address substance abuse and misuse, particularly among youth and women. Our presence at the annual Opioid Misuse Prevention Symposium has allowed us to remain informed about ongoing community efforts, to support former and existing partners, and to identify opportunities for future research, intervention, and collaboration.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Southwest Institute
for Research on Women

MISSION

Develop, conduct, and disseminate collaborative outreach, education, intervention, and research projects of importance to diverse groups.

GOALS

- Engage in collaborative feminist research on topics pertinent to the lives of girls, women, and families;
- Develop and conduct outreach, education, service, research, and trainings with regard to mental and physical health, sexuality, legal matters, education, workforce, equity, diversity, and other issues;
- Address social inequalities and group-based disparities;
- Examine and support women's contribution to literature, the arts, and Southwest heritage;
- Advocate for women and families by linking researchers with community organizations and policy makers;
- Identify, illuminate, and disseminate research on girls, women, families, and gender differences.



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