

CLARA BOLSTER-FOUCAULT

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Health equity researcher and non-profit executive at the intersection of quantitative evidence and policy action. Combines epidemiological methods for studying social inequities in aging and healthcare with translation of findings into public understanding and institutional change through government consultations, policy engagement, and national media. Experienced in strategic planning, team leadership, board governance, and fundraising for mission-driven organizations. Bilingual (English-French) across federal, provincial, and international public health sectors.

EDUCATION

PhD in Epidemiology McGill University <i>FRQS Doctoral award</i>	2019 – 2026 (expected)
MSc in Public Health McGill University	2017 – 2019
Bachelor of Arts (Distinction) Concordia University	2009 – 2013

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Director | Monthly Dignity | Montreal, QC 2023 – present

- Lead strategic, operational, and financial aspects of a registered charity addressing period poverty in Quebec, overseeing a \$500K annual operating budget, 4 full-time staff, and programs reaching 70+ organizations province-wide; authored and secured \$1.3M in multi-year federal funding.
- Built organizational infrastructure: recruited and trained the governing Board, led formal hiring processes, developed HR and privacy policies with external advisors, established financial systems.
- Designed a monitoring and evaluation framework tracking distribution (~300K products/year) and educational outreach (~150 workshops/year); led outcome and impact reporting to funders.
- Translated organizational evidence into policy engagement, including expert testimony in the Canadian House of Commons and policy briefs presented in the Quebec National Assembly.

Doctoral Researcher | McGill University | Montreal, QC 2019 – present

- Designed and led a research program on socioeconomic and gender-based inequities in aging in place in Quebec, using the linked administrative and survey data (25,000 respondents, 1996-2016).
- Applied quantitative intersectional methods across gender, income, and education: cause-specific Cox and Fine-Gray competing risks models for long-term care admissions, negative binomial hurdle models for avoidable acute care use; refined case-identification algorithms for Quebec administrative data and translated implementations from SAS to R.

Training Program Facilitator | Consortium for Analytics on Data-Driven Decision-Making (CAnD3); McGill University | Montreal, QC 2023 – present

- Develop and deliver graduate-level methods training to an interdisciplinary cohort of 20-30 Masters, PhD, and postdoctoral trainees annually within a SSHRC-funded international training consortium spanning 39 academic, government, non-profit, and private sector partners.
- Authored original curriculum on quantitative intersectional analysis, directed acyclic graphs, frameworks for health equity research, and applied use of generative AI; co-facilitate CAnD3's annual R data visualization workshop at Florida State University (2024) and Oxford University (2025).
- Provide methodological feedback on trainee analytical plans, reproducible code workflows, policy briefs, and portfolio deliverables; judge the program's applied data visualization competition.

Research Fellow | SE Health Research Centre | Markham, ON (remote) 2022 – 2024

- Led an embedded research project evaluating a case-mix classification system (RUG-III/HC) in transitional home care across 8 Ontario programs, using linked interRAI and billing data.
- Identified program-level heterogeneity and limited predictive performance in transitional care; published findings and prepared executive summaries for SE Health senior leadership.
- Designed and co-facilitated stakeholder consultations to inform decision-support tools.

Policy Analyst (EC-03) | Public Health Agency of Canada | Montreal, QC 2019 – 2020

- Authored an inventory and gap analysis of 70+ federal and provincial disease surveillance systems in Quebec, identifying cross-jurisdictional discrepancies and opportunities for harmonization.
- Led development and publication of peer-reviewed knowledge syntheses on structural determinants of stigma and on HIV testing barriers in Canada.
- Mobilized under the *Quarantine Act* to screen air travelers during the COVID-19 response (2020).

Graduate Practicum Student | Pan-American Health Organization | Washington DC 2018

- Conducted a regional review of avian influenza surveillance and biosafety policies across the Americas; authored a policy-oriented report for Ministries of Health.
- Performed geospatial analysis of livestock populations and outbreak risks.

POLICY IMPACT & MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

- Invited witness, House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women (2023); testimony cited in the Committee's 2023 report on menstrual equity.
- Contributor, CADTH expert consultation on aging in place (2024) and Quebec provincial home care policy consultation (2024); co-authored policy chapters for VITAM (2025) and CIRANO (2020).
- Research on aging in place featured in *The Globe and Mail*, *La Presse*, *Le Devoir*, CTV News, Radio-Canada, and CJAD 800AM; highlighted in the *Age & Ageing* Editor's View.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Bolster-Foucault C, Vedel I, Sourial N, Godard-Sebillotte C, Quesnel-Vallée A. Disparities in Admissions to Long-term Care Facilities Among Older Adults in Quebec. Submitted to *Int J Epidemiol*.

Bolster-Foucault C, Vedel I, Busa G, Hacker G, Sourial N, Quesnel-Vallée A. Social Inequity in Ageing in Place Among Older Adults in OECD Countries: A Mixed Studies Systematic Review. *Age & Ageing*; 2024.

Bolster-Foucault C, Ho Mi Fane B, Blair A. Structural determinants of stigma across health and social conditions: A rapid review and conceptual framework. *Health Promot Chronic Dis Prev J Can*; 2021.

Summary: 13 peer-reviewed publications (5 first author); *full list available on [Google Scholar](#)*

SKILLS

- **Research methods:** Observational study design, survival analysis (Cox, Fine-Gray), count data regression, evidence synthesis, quantitative intersectional analysis, DAGs for causal inference.
- **Real-world data and programming:** Linked Canadian administrative data; interRAI assessments; EMRs; R (ggplot2, Shiny), SAS, R Markdown, Git/GitHub; applied use of generative AI in research.
- **Policy and knowledge mobilization:** Policy brief development, government consultation and testimony, federal grant writing, media engagement, stakeholder engagement across sectors.
- **Leadership and operations:** Organizational strategy, program design and evaluation, board governance, team management, financial planning, project management.
- **Languages:** English (native), French (native); professional work product in both.