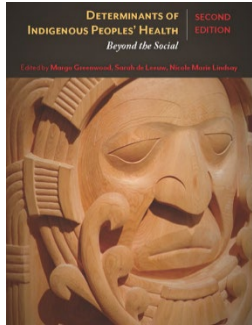




## Beyond the Social: Author Interviews



Welcome to [Beyond the Social: Author Interviews](#), a video series produced by the National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health. The NCCIH focuses on innovative research and community-based initiatives promoting the health and well-being of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada. All of the contributors interviewed in this video series, from the highly-acclaimed book [Determinants of Indigenous Peoples' Health in Canada: Beyond the Social](#), share a common concern with improving the health of Indigenous peoples in Canada and beyond. In sharing First Nations, Métis, and Inuit traditional knowledge alongside Western academic and medical knowledge, the authors demonstrate the potential gains of walking in two worlds, integrating the best of both Indigenous and Western knowledge, and honouring and respecting the diverse healing and medical practices available to us today.

## Video – Introduction: Rethinking Determinants of Indigenous Peoples' Health in Canada, with Margo Greenwood and Sarah de Leeuw



In their interview, editors Sarah de Leeuw and Margo Greenwood explain that the goal of this unique publication—the only book of its kind in Canada—was to privilege the deep, complex knowledge of Indigenous scholars, artists, community organizers, Elders, and health providers about the myriad determinants of health that affect their communities. With a significant majority of Indigenous contributors, Indigenous voices and ways of knowing are embodied in the text, providing a unique window into Indigenous knowledge about health from a variety of different perspectives.

## Transcript

**Margo:** My name is Margo Greenwood and I am one of the editors of the book.

**Sarah:** My name is Sarah de Leeuw and I am also co-editor of the book.

**Margo:** One of my dreams, in the back of my mind, was that we really needed to write a book about this topic to sort of begin to fill that gap, but a bigger part of that was to privilege the knowledge of Indigenous scholars from across the country – so from coast to coast to coast. So that book was a vision of bringing forward that voice as well as filling that gap around lack of information around the determinants of health. That was certainly in the back of mind as I was sort of dreaming about doing this work. So, I began to talk to Sarah. Sarah and I have worked together for a very long time, since way before the Collaborating Centre started at UNBC, the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health. So, I said to Sarah, we need to do this. Sarah is an amazing writer and I knew I needed a whole lot of allies and a whole lot of help to get this done. Sarah has worked with me for a very long time and certainly has worked with the Collaborating Centre since its inception. We started to have this conversation – let’s do this work. We started to think about who else do we know who would want to do this work with us, and so we approached Charlotte Loppie, and also we had a young woman by the name of Nicole Lindsay that worked with us at the Collaborating Centre and so we approached her, got engaged with her, to really do a lot of the work around bringing it to fruition after we had identified [authors] and sent in our proposal and all those kinds of good things. Nicole was really a huge support in doing this work.

**Sarah:** I think a significant part of the genesis of the book was really a dream of the National Collaborating Centre and a dream of Margo Greenwood. For me, part of my ongoing enjoyment of working and writing with Margo is that Margo has really an unparalleled reach, as does the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, into Indigenous voices that aren’t seclusionary and aren’t bounded – so we’re talking about Inuit, First Nations, and Métis voices and perspectives from coast to coast to coast. I think that’s something the Collaborating Centre has done incredibly and it’s really embodied in the text. When I came to doing things like book proposals – you know, cause that’s kind of boring behind the scenes stuff, but I’m not bad at it. I know a lot of presses in Canada and I think there were a number of presses who were very interested in it. As Margo said, part of the reason there was such interest and why the book has garnered so much attention is that it’s really the only book of its kind in the country in so far as it’s, I would say, well over 90% Indigenous content and it includes voices from all three constitutionally recognized Indigenous Peoples in the country.

**Margo:** I think one of the important things around ... this whole thing around language around determinants of health, around social determinants of health, is that’s a particular language, but if I was in community, I would be talking about holistic health because all of those concepts, those stories, those poems that are in that book, are anchored in a system of holistic health and wellness. So, it runs alongside that language, if you will, and I think in my chapter, we talk about... In my own book chapter, I talk about growing up in two worlds, being and walking in two worlds. Sometimes we have to do that because in one world we’ll use that language that’s determinants of health, social determinants of health, whatever those folks understand it as. In the Indigenous world, we are really talking about holistic health.

The topics themselves are pretty distinct and unique to Indigenous Peoples' lived realities. I think that's evident when you look at the table of contents and you'll see that. It's not your typical table of contents that you would find in the Ottawa Charter book on determinants of health. I think that's it. But you know, when I had the opportunity to read the book in its entirety, after it was published, it was so amazing to me how explicit Indigenous knowledge, that system of knowledge, is exemplified in each of those chapters. So while they may be talking about a particular theme, the underlying system of knowledge in which they are anchored is just clearly evident. So, if somebody came to you – a student – and said tell me about Indigenous knowledge, what is that? You could hand them that book and say read this and when you're done, you come and ask me what questions you have left.

It's being used in a lot of university post-secondary courses and not just health sector courses, not just in nursing or medicine or community health sciences, people are using it in Poli Sci...

**Sarah:** First Nations studies

**Margo:** First Nations Studies, Anthropology, Geography...

**Sarah:** Social Work...

**Margo:** Social Work, all of those ... Education. It crosses the disciplines and it crosses the sectors.

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