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The Wolb-Pack: A Collaborative Interdisciplinary Student Research Team

Wolbring, Gregor

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The Wolb-Pack: A Collaborative Interdisciplinary Student Research Team

Gregor Wolbring (gwolbrin@ucalgary.ca) and Jesse Hendrikse (jlhendri@ucalgary.ca)

Boushra Abdullah, Natalie Ball, Jennifer Cheung, Lucy Diep, Emily Hutcheon, Verlyn Leopatra, Brian Litke, Rachel Mackay, Angelica Martin, Kalie Mosig, Jacqueline Noga, Sonum Panesar, Theresa Rybchinski, Eniola Salami, Kassi Shave, Jeremy Tynedal, and Sophya Yumakulov

■ WHO WE ARE

- Group of graduate and undergraduate (1st-4th year) students pursuing different degrees, supervised by Gregor Wolbring
- Students and their supervisors (Jesse Hendrikse)
- Students joining independently of their supervisors
- Our academic work reflects diverse personal research interests: e.g. social robotics, sports, sustainability, and neuroenhancements
- Many of our academic projects are grounded in the framework of ableism and disability studies
- We employ a variety of methodologies (qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods)
- We communicate our research virtually and non-virtually through posters, papers, and oral presentations



■ WHAT WE DO

- Share ideas
- Collaborate with and learn from each other
- Help integrate new students into the world of research
- Support future academic and non-academic endeavours



■ INSPIRe (International Network of Student Perspectives In Research)

- In 2012, we co-founded the 1st INSPIRe Symposium (an online symposium for students to share their research and collaborate with one another)
 - 23 student presenters from: Canada, China, Belgium, UK, and USA
- The 2nd annual symposium will take place in fall 2013



"The Wolb-Pack relies on each other for so much more than academic mentorship, and that is what makes it so easy to depend on the team for help, both in my academic and personal life."

- Jacqueline Noga

"The Wolb-Pack has been an incredible resource particularly with regards to feedback as I continue to disseminate my graduate work. And I have swapped great recipes and received expert knitting lessons! In a word: unbeatable."

- Emily Hutcheon

"It is an absolute pleasure to be a member of the Wolb-Pack! To learn, to share my own knowledge, and to help other students navigate the world of research. The support we offer and the relationships we cultivate have enriched my university experience beyond measure and I hope to continue to be a part of it!"

- Sophya Yumakulov

"We joined The Wolb-Pack because we believe that collaboration is an important skill for our academic career and in developing our interpersonal skills. Having peer support available has provided a sense of group effort and teamwork. We also feel we have a great mentor in Gregor Wolbring."

- Boushra Abdullah, Jennifer Cheung, Rachel Mackay, and Sonum Panesar



■ HOW WE WORK

- Meet weekly as a group throughout the year (and many of us work together in the same physical space Mo-Fri (May-Sept),
- Individual members meet with their PI (principal investigator) weekly
- Provide mutual support as mentors and mentees
- Share our research and academic expertise with each other
- Provide constructive advice and feedback to each other's work
- Look for opportunities to co-author academic papers for peer reviewed journals, and abstracts for conferences
- Stay in contact with alumni through listserv
- Use our logo in our presentations and posters (designed by team member, Verlyn Leopatra) to highlight the support of our group

■ ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE WORK PLACE

- We are colleagues who have become friends
- Our less formal relationship has allowed us to form a strong team through:
 - Potlucks, knitting, peer support, including gift baskets and moral support

■ GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL OUTPUT

- To find out more about the group and its output please visit:
http://www.crd.s.org/research/faculty/Gregor_Wolbring.shtml