

Carol Mallette Amaratunga, PhD
Research Associate Emerita

Justice Institute of British Columbia
810 Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1H8
Telephone 250 405 3505
Home 778 4330089
www.jibc.ca
camaratunga@jibc.ca



Carol retired as Dean, Office of Applied Research in July 2011. In her role as Dean Applied Research with the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC), Carol Amaratunga lead and directed a number of JIBC Pan Institute applied research initiatives and helped the Institute to build extensive institutional and individual research capacity. As a 'publishing' dean, she also lead a number of research project initiatives in Canada and internationally.

Although semi-retired, her research continues to focus on population and public health including violence reduction, women's health and gender, including global health issues such as vulnerable population risk behaviours, HIV/AIDS, zoonotic infectious diseases, and community resilience planning for emergency preparedness. Her research addresses the social determinants of health with emphasis on the health and wellbeing of disadvantaged and socio-economically excluded i.e. 'forgotten' populations, particularly in pandemic, disaster and post conflict situations. She views health system resiliency planning in rural, remote and coastal communities as a process for community social and economic empowerment.

Until her retirement in July 2011 Carol served as Principal Investigator, **Building Resilience and Rural Health System Capability for Pre-Disaster Planning and Preparedness**; Principal Investigator of the **Centre for Prevention and Reduction of Violence**; and Co Investigator, **In Land and Life Project** - a prion disease project in consultation with First Nations communities and Dr. Stephane McLaughlin, University of Manitoba funded by PrioNet Canada. Carol continues to support these projects in an advisory capacity while mentoring a number of graduate students at the Masters and Doctoral levels.

Carol began her international research studies in population health and rural extension education as a volunteer with Operation Crossroads Africa (Liberia), as a CIDA and IDRC graduate student scholar at the University of Ghana and University of Colombo, and as a volunteer with Canadian Crossroads International (India) where she worked on disaster recovery and cyclone relief. For more than 35 years, she has worked and studied population health in Canada, and in coastal, remote and rural communities in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America. Her methodology of preference is community based research, including participatory action research methods (PAR). Carol views applied research and 'foresight planning' as tools for social change and social justice in resilient communities.

In 2003 Carol Amaratunga was appointed Ontario Women's Health Council Chair, Institute of Population Health and Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa. She was also a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine. In 2004/05 Carol was invited to serve as Director, Institute of Population Health, University of Ottawa. Prior to joining the University of Ottawa, she was the Principal Investigator and Executive Director of the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health (1997-2003) and an Associate Professor (Research) (1996-2003) with the Faculty of Health Professions, Dalhousie University, Halifax.

Prior to joining the academy, she served in the public sector for 16 years as a senior Manager with the Commission on Drug Dependency, Nova Scotia Department of Health (1977-1986); as an Expert in Socio-Economics with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, United Nations), duty station Sri Lanka 1982-84); and as a Director of the Global Education Division

of the International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD), a Canadian Crown Corporation from 1986 to 1992.

While employed with ICOD, she served as the Field Representative for the Indian Ocean e.g. Sri Lanka, Maldives, Seychelles and Mauritius. As the ICOD Program Director of the Global Education Division she managed a multi-year, multi-million dollar portfolio with more than 600 individual scholarship projects and directed a multifaceted portfolio of 'twinning linkage' exchange programmes with Canadian Colleges, Cegep's and Universities and their partners including the University of the South Pacific, University of the West Indies, along with universities and colleges in West Africa and Latin America.

Carol is a Scientific Member and a past Board Member of the University of British Columbia's National Centre of Excellence (NCE) for Prion Diseases – PrioNet Canada. She is also a past board member of the Ocean Management Research Network (OMRN) University of Ottawa. She has been an Adjunct Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Community Medicine, University of Ottawa (2008 – 2011) and currently holds an Adjunct Faculty position with the School of Human and Social Development, University of Victoria. She presently serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Pre Hospital and Disaster Medicine, World Association of Disaster and Emergency Medicine (Cambridge, UK) and the International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment (University of Salford, UK).