

## **Division Seminar Series** **Social and Behavioural Health Sciences**

**Tuesday, September 19, 12-1pm**

**Zoom meeting: <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/84813524969>**

**Meeting ID: 848 1352 4969**



### **Dr. Savitri Persaud** **Postdoctoral Fellow, DLSPH**

***“It gat mad people, but she nah mad”:  
Capturing and exploring explanatory models of  
mental distress in Guyana***

Dr. Savitri Persaud is a Postdoctoral Fellow at DLSPH working with Dr. Lori Ross on the "Mapping the Gaps" research project. Dr. Persaud's individual research explores how mental distress is understood and experienced in Guyana and among Caribbean diasporas, specifically analyzing the competing and complementary discourses, aetiologies, and diverse practices employed by Guyanese and Caribbean communities to address and ease distress.



### **Dr. Mohammad Karamouzian** **Assistant Professor (status-only), DLSPH**

***Improving health equity for marginalized  
populations in socio-culturally conservative  
settings***

Mohammad Karamouzian is a Public Health scientist. He currently holds an Assistant Professor (status-only) position at the DLSPH at U of T and an Adjunct Professor position at Kerman University of Medical Sciences (Iran). He is also a Research Scientist at the Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation (CDPE), where he leads the national evaluation of Canada's safer supply pilot projects, the BC Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU), and the WHO Collaborating Center for HIV Surveillance in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), known as HIVHUB. A former veterinarian (DVM) turned public health researcher, he holds a PhD in Population and Public Health (2021) from the University of British Columbia, where he had the Vanier and Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation doctoral scholarships. Mohammad's research focuses on addressing health inequities faced by marginalized populations, such as female sex workers, people who inject drugs, and people who are incarcerated. He is committed to translating his research into policies that will improve the health of marginalized populations. He has authored/co-authored 150+ peer-reviewed publications in leading international peer-reviewed journals and won 20+ awards and scholarships for his research, leadership, and academic achievements.