

# Water-Related Death Investigations: Master's Thesis Project Work Plan

Updated May 2017

## **Section 1**

**Primary Investigator:** Vienna Chichi Lam, Graduate Student  
**Faculty Sponsor/Supervisor:** Dr. Gail S. Anderson, Primary Supervisor  
Dr. J. Bryan Kinney, Committee Member

**Last Updated:** May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **Acronyms**

PWP – Project Work Plan  
SS- Spreadsheet  
AB – Annotated Bibliography  
UHR- Unidentified Human Remains

### **Project Goals and Objectives**

1. Aggregating analysis of suicide data
2. Create formal research report
3. Generate hits based on four main descriptive factors: times, space, age and sex
4. Spatialize cases and present data via statistical analysis and spreadsheets

## **Study Area**

- British Columbia, Canada

## **Scope**

### **In-Scope:**

- Literature
- Journals
- BC Coroners GPS Coordinates of Unidentified Human Remains
- Bridge Jumping Data

## **Key Deliverables**

- Templates
- Project Name
- Excel Spreadsheets
- SPSS Output
- SPSS Dataset
- Research Paper
- Presentation

## **Location Requirement**

- Office of the Chief Coroner  
800 - 4720 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC  
V5H 4N2

## **Data Management**

- Spatialize Data using Excel Spreadsheets, Create Formal Training Guide outlining procedure

## **Preliminary Budget**

An estimated 200 hours will be required.

## **PROJECT TEAM AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Project Supervisor:** XXX Supervisor's Name

## **ASSUMPTIONS/RISKS**

- Sample size will be sufficient enough to generate potential identity hits
- Unknown factors of UHR samples

## **Technology:**

- Microsoft Excel 2010
- PowerPoint 2010
- Microsoft Word 2010
- ArcGIS
- SPSS 22.0

## **Data / Information**

- Bridge Jumping Suicide Data via BC Coroners Service, Academic Articles, Literature Reviews

## **PROJECT ASSESSMENT AND COMPLETION CRITERIA**

Project Assessment: **(48 Months & Tentative Schedule)**

### **Phase 1 – Project Organization (2 Weeks) January 8<sup>th</sup> – January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

- Project planning
- Discuss project foundation
- Begin manual table of contents
- Begin reviewing comparisons online (literature review)
- Update research agreement

### **Phase 2 – Project Planning Continued (2 Weeks) January 22<sup>nd</sup> - February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

- Populate unique bridges spreadsheet
- Spatialize bridge data
- Update research agreement
- Start research paper

### **Phase 3 – Focused Research (2 Weeks) February 5<sup>th</sup> – February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

- Determine mean, median and mode bridge results (descriptive statistics and distances travelled)
- Discussion of spatialized bridge data
- Generate maps
- Continue writing research paper

### **Phase 4 – Research Findings (3 Weeks) February 19<sup>th</sup> – March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

- Update coroner research agreement
  - Present completed research findings to XXX Supervisor's Name
  - Complete spreadsheets & charts
  - Begin formalizing final draft for SFU
- Note: Lam will be away during the week of the 22<sup>nd</sup> for the American Academy of Forensic Science Annual Conference.

### **Phase 5 – Draft report (2 Weeks) March 11<sup>th</sup> – March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

- Initial draft report
- Complete spreadsheets
- Create bibliography
- Create any graphs/charts
- Tentative: Presentation of Preliminary Findings

### **Phase 6 – Project Meeting (1 week) March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

- Review draft
- Complete all necessary updates
- Confirm dates for bridge jumping 2006-2012

**Phase 7 – Project Meeting (2 weeks) April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

- Review updated draft
- Await further direction

**Phase 8 – Project Meeting (2 weeks) April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

- Review progress
- Meeting with SFU affiliates

**Phase 9 – Finalize Report (2 months) May 15<sup>th</sup> – July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

- Complete final report
- Complete all necessary updates
- Submit for publication
- Include in the Appendix: Steps Taken in ArcGIS and SPSS

**Phase 10 – Meeting and Presentation (2 weeks) August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

- Meeting and presentation of findings

## **Resources / Team**

This project will require the services of the following resources: N/A

Internal Resources: N/A

## **Deliverables**

The following deliverables will be submitted by August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016:

- Initial Draft Report
- All templates/spreadsheets
- SPSS Database