

**MEETING NEW PERSPECTIVES IN HEALTH SERVICES AND POLICY  
RESEARCH: STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON INTERDISCIPLINARY TRAINING**

**Nazrul Islam**, MBBS, MPH,  
MSc, PhD Student, School of  
Population and Public Health,  
University of British Columbia  
**CANADA**  
nazrul@alumni.ubc.ca

**Sarah Munro**, MA, PhD  
Student, Interdisciplinary  
Studies Graduate Program,  
University of British  
Columbia, **CANADA**  
smunro@cheos.ubc.ca

**Robert Rivers**, MA, PhD  
Student, Interdisciplinary  
Studies Graduate Program,  
University of British  
Columbia, **CANADA**  
robertrivers@live.com

**Dmitry Vishniakov**, MD, MPH,  
PhD Student, School of  
Population and Public Health,  
University of British Columbia  
**CANADA**  
dmitry.vishniakov@alumni.ubc.ca

**Elizabeth Wilcox**, MA, PhD  
Student, School of Population  
and Public Health, University  
of British Columbia  
**CANADA**  
wilcox.liz@gmail.com

**Sam Sheps**, MD, MSc, FRCP,  
Professor, School of Population  
and Public Health, Director of the  
WRTC, University of British  
Columbia, **CANADA**  
sam.sheps@ubc.ca

The authors comprise the cohort for the 2012-2013 Western Regional Training Centre for Health Services Research (WRTC) at the University of British Columbia (UBC).

**ABSTRACT**

This article presents a discussion of students' perspectives on encountering new, complex, and contrasting perspectives in health services research (HSR). Training in HSR traditionally requires students to attain a deep understanding of the philosophical, clinical, cultural, historical, and organizational discourses that contribute to understanding health services and policy. In this reflection, students discuss the impact on their education of encountering readings from beyond the traditional scope of HSR literature. They describe how new philosophical and conceptual perspectives impacted their understanding of healthcare organizations and health policy.

**Keywords:** Health services research, interdisciplinary, curriculum.