

RESEARCH COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Meet Lisa Schlosser, a MARCO Investigator.

How and why did you get involved with research on social issues and marginalization?

Because I've lived with mental illness for over 25 years. Most of my focus has been on the homeless community as someone who's been there. I joined HMRAC (the Housing, Mortality, Research and Advocacy Coalition, see [here](#) and [here](#)), and then I was approached to do some research. I started researching crystal meth. Then I started co-facilitating interviews and focus groups and went from there.

What do you find rewarding about this work?

Going out into the community and hearing what everybody has to say. Everybody out there has a story. It's all a matter of circumstance, anybody could be homeless at any moment. I like going out and I'm able to adapt well to the different circumstances, and make friends along the way. The other day I was in Value Village, one of the fellows I saw in the last research project in the Meeting Place. And we got to have a great conversation about it! Really funny to see him when I was out and about.

What is it like for you to transition from being a peer researcher to an investigator on the project?

It's a different experience. I didn't really understand the role at first, but it's very exciting. I've never had to do a CV before, and it's been very interesting. We're just getting started with the project, so I will learn more as it goes. It's a different angle for sure.

Have any exciting things happened for you in the time since you have gotten involved with your first community research project?

Well, being involved with this research and already having the training, I'm now also on the CAMH research advisory group. I have some skills and knowledge in research that definitely helped me get involved there.

To learn more about the MARCO Project, visit <https://maphealth.ca/marco>