



Kevin Crowley, Director  
 Communications & Public Affairs, Wilfrid Laurier University  
 519-884-0710 ext. 3070 or [kcrowley@wlu.ca](mailto:kcrowley@wlu.ca)

JULY 24, 2017 | 110-17

## Province recognizes Laurier PhD student's research on traumatic brain injury from intimate-partner violence

WATERLOO – Halina (Lin) Haag, a doctoral student in Wilfrid Laurier University's Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work, is a recipient of the 2017-18 Ontario Women's Health Scholars Awards, funded by the Ontario government and administered by the Council of Ontario Universities (COU).

Haag researches traumatic brain injury (TBI), and acquired chronic illness and injury. Her current work focuses on women survivors of intimate-partner violence that results in traumatic brain injury, and barriers encountered in the areas of mental health, return to work, and social inclusion.

"Women living with traumatic brain injuries from intimate partner violence have long been overlooked and under-supported," said Haag. "This award enables me to continue exploring new ways to improve their health and well-being, and better support them as they rebuild their lives."

Haag's research will help identify and make recommendations for the type of support women need in response to the identified connections between TBI, mental illness, and intimate partner violence.

"The organizational context within which women with disabilities seek accommodation and support has received limited attention, and Lin study's is bound to make important contributions to in this area," says Eli Teram, recently retired professor in the Faculty of Social Work and Haag's co-supervisor. "She has a rare combination of personal and professional knowledge and skills that provides a solid starting point for this study."

Through the Ontario Women's Health Scholars Awards, Haag and nine other university scholars from six Ontario universities will receive a scholarship of up to \$50,000 to focus on the health of women.

"The work of these Ontario researchers will accelerate the discovery of cures, treatments and improvements to women's health care and wellness strategies, and in this way help to build a brighter future for our province," said David Lindsay, president and CEO of the COU, in a news release.

Haag is an instructor in Laurier's Faculty of Social Work and a member of the Acquired Brain Injury Research Lab at the University of Toronto. She has also won a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Strategic Training Fellowship in Interdisciplinary Primary Healthcare Research and the Hilary M. Weston Scholarship for research in mental health.