



Lori Chalmers Morrison, Director: Integrated Communications
External Relations, Wilfrid Laurier University
519.884.0710 x3067 or lchalmersmorrison@wlu.ca

MARCH 4, 2020 | 026-20

Laurier expert alert: Coronavirus

WATERLOO – The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, continues to spread across the world. Wilfrid Laurier University has several experts available to speak about topics related to the virus.

Economic implications

[Jurek Konieczny](#), professor of Economics in the Lazaridis School of Business and Economics, is available to speak about how the coronavirus has affected the world economy and markets, why the Bank of Canada has lowered its key interest rate and what can be expected if the virus continues its course. Konieczny is an expert in macroeconomics, monetary economics, monetary and fiscal policy and the Great Recession. He is the former director of the Rimini Centre for Economic Analysis and has spoken recently about the possibility of [another recession](#). Contact: jurek@wlu.ca or 519.884.0710 x2238.

Potential impacts on the Olympic Games

[Stephen Wenn](#), a professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education, is available to speak about the potential impacts of the coronavirus on the upcoming Summer Olympics Games in Japan. Wenn is an expert on sport and commerce; Olympic history and scandals; and the financial and logistical challenges of hosting the Olympics. He is the co-author of *Selling the Five Rings: the IOC and the Rise of Olympic Commercialism* and the lead author of *Tarnished Rings: The International Olympic Committee and the Salt Lake City Bid Scandal* and the recently released *The Gold in the Rings: The People and Events that Transformed the Olympic Games*. Contact: swenn@wlu.ca or 519.884.1970 x4160.

Fear and misinformation

[Penelope Ironstone](#) is an associate professor in the Department of Communications and director of the master's in Cultural Analysis and Social Theory program. She can speak about how fear and misinformation around the virus are generated and perpetuated and how they can contribute to racism and xenophobia. In a follow-up to her research project, "From Seasonal Flu to Pandemic Influenza: The Cultural Life of a Virus," she is monitoring media portrayals of viruses, including the coronavirus, and analyzing how our understanding of viruses can help or hinder public health efforts. Contact: pironstone@wlu.ca.

Epidemiology

[Todd Coleman](#), assistant professor in the Department of Health Sciences, is an epidemiologist and expert in population health. He is available to speak about the epidemiology of infectious diseases, such as the coronavirus, how we can use statistical information to understand trends in disease transmission, as well as public health efforts to control further transmission. He can also speak about how some populations, especially marginalized communities and certain subgroups, may experience health care services differently. Contact: tc Coleman@wlu.ca or 519.884.0710 x2127.

...more

Preparing health systems

[Ahmad Firas Khalid](#) is a faculty member in Human and Social Sciences, a medical doctor and a health policy advisor. He is available to speak about how health systems can use research evidence to better prepare and react to crisis situations, such as the coronavirus outbreak, and the importance of improving access to research and knowledge during emergencies. He recently published an article about ways to put [evidence about coronavirus into action](#). Contact: akhalid@wlu.ca

-30-