

Research Report 2021-22

Research in Action



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Message from the Dean
3	Message from the Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Studies
4	LA&PS research by the numbers
6	Advancing new knowledge and perspectives
10	Empowering Black scholars
12	Achieving positive community impact
15	Building collaborative partnerships
20	Celebrating research excellence
23	Opening doors to community
27	Advancing scholarly inquiry
30	Global Labour Research Centre

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

York University recognizes that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University. York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat. It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region.

Message from the Dean



Welcome to the 2023 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, our opportunity to discuss critical issues of our times, share significant findings and build new partnerships.

As our 2021-22 Research Report demonstrates, the [Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies](#) at York University is a place that fosters and promotes a dynamic, diverse and impactful research culture. Our internationally recognized scholars examine current issues, complex trends and universal themes, generating insights to help move society forward.

Through interdisciplinary collaboration and engagement with local and global stakeholders, LA&PS develops and carries out research programs that are comprehensive and relevant to diverse communities.

As Canada's largest academic gathering gets under way, I hope our conversations help cultivate a more just, safe, inclusive and sustainable society.

~ **Dean J.J. McMurtry,**
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

The Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies at York University is a place that fosters and promotes a dynamic, diverse and impactful research culture.

Message from the Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Studies

When I think about the research taking place at the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, I am energized by all the possibilities our work creates to understand this complex and captivating world better and our places and purposes within it.

In 2021-22, researchers from across our departments and schools helped break new ground across the humanities and social sciences and develop important collaborations with practitioners and community organizations. Much of their work, supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, unearthed vital truths about our socio-cultural, political, environmental, economic and technological realities. Our colleagues' diverse findings help policymakers, community organizers and business decision-makers take the actions needed to improve our world.

As Congress 2023 unfolds, we look forward to the vibrant discussions and exchange of ideas that will shape the innovative and inclusive solutions we need to build a better future.

~ **Associate Dean Ravi de Costa**
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

Our colleagues' diverse findings help policymakers, community organizers and business decision-makers take the actions needed to improve our world.



LA&PS Research by the Numbers

\$12.5 million

Total external research funding¹

\$4.2 million

Tri-Agency Partnership funding³

\$6.3 million

SSHRC funding²



Black Scholars Research Fund grants

24

Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada

20+

Postdoctoral Fellowships

100%

Application success rate: SSHRC Partnership & Partnership Development grants⁴



27

New hires⁵

8

Active Canada Research Chairs

2

Active Ontario Research Chairs

6

Active York Research Chairs

43

Recipients of Dean's Award for Research Excellence (undergraduate)

¹Total value of 2022 grants with a LA&PS principal investigator.

²Total value for 2022.

³The Tri-Agency consists of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Total value for 2022.

⁴Total value for 2022.

⁵Full-time tenure-track and tenured faculty hired from Sept. 1/21 to Aug. 31/22.

Advancing new knowledge and perspectives

In 2021-22, research by LA&PS faculty examined fundamental truths about diverse topics, including the cultural heritage of Greek Canadians, the complicated nature of vaccine hesitancy and current and historical gender dynamics.



York University Libraries, Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections, Toronto Telegram fonds, ASC33229

DOCUMENTING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF GREEK CANADIANS

Athanasios (Sakis) Gekas

Associate professor, Department of History, Hellenic Heritage Foundation Chair in Modern Greek History

Greeks who migrated to Canada in the 1950s and 1960s brought distinct cultural knowledge and traditions. Preserving this heritage for future generations is the goal behind Sakis Gekas' project "Greeks in Canada; a Digital Public History."

The two-year project seeks to generate digital content for the Greek Canadian Archives at York University. With \$124,628 in funding from a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, Gekas and his team collect and analyze resources such as audio and video files of interviews with Greek Canadians, interactive maps and digitized historical material.

Gekas is partnering with the non-profit cultural organization the Hellenic Heritage Foundation. Their efforts will generate material for the public to learn about the history of Greek Canadians.

EXAMINING VACCINE RELUCTANCE IN CANADIAN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Farimah Hakem Zadeh

Assistant professor, School of Human Resource Management

The reluctance of some healthcare professionals to take the COVID-19 vaccine became a concern due to the influence these individuals have on their patients and communities. Farimah Hakem Zadeh wanted to understand vaccine hesitancy in internationally educated health professionals (IEHPs), who comprise a large portion of the Canadian healthcare labour force. With \$64,153 in funding from a SSHRC Insight Development Grant, Hakem Zadeh is exploring the role of lived experiences and the context of professional practice in shaping these individuals' beliefs about vaccinations.

She is examining the intersecting identities of sex, gender, ethnicity and race in IEHPs, and how the process of professional integration in Canada affects their views. Hakem Zadeh, whose research interests include health human resources and work-life conflict, is conducting this research with a public health sciences lecturer at the University of Waterloo. Their goal is to help inform professional integration practices for IEHPs to reduce vaccine hesitancy in future pandemics.



UNDERSTANDING COVID-19 VACCINE HESITANCY

Eric Kennedy

Associate professor, School of Administrative Studies
Associate Director, York Emergency Mitigation, Engagement, Response, and Governance Institute

When COVID-19 vaccines first emerged, many worried their development was rushed. Eric Kennedy unpacks this concern in his SSHRC-funded study "Until I know It's Safe for Me": The Role of Timing in COVID-19 Vaccine Decision-Making and Vaccine Hesitancy" (MDPI, Nov. 2021).

Collaborating with assistant professor of applied politics Jean-François Daoust at the Université de Sherbrooke, Kennedy explored how the timing of vaccine rollouts can affect public uptake. By conducting surveys and examining qualitative data, they studied factors such as perceptions of vaccine safety and efficacy and the attitude of pro-social altruism—those who delayed getting immunized to allow higher-risk individuals access first. They found that delaying the availability of a vaccine can lead to a higher level of public acceptance and lower levels of a "desire to wait" and "total rejection." Kennedy hopes this study can help inform more effective vaccine-related policymaking and public messaging.

EXAMINING INEQUITIES IN SOCIAL RELATIONS

Meg Luxton

Professor, School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

Feminist political economy has played an important role in illuminating social and gender dynamics. In her forthcoming book, *Feminist Political Economy: Practitioners and Practices*, Luxton examines this theoretical framework's history, development, implications and political orientation.

Together with Susan Braedley, an associate professor of social work at Carleton University in Ottawa, she is reviewing its methodologies for understanding social relations and contemporary life, including areas such as domestic labour, social reproduction and care.

Luxton is the former director of the Graduate Program in Gender, Feminist & Women's Studies and the Centre for Feminist Research. Her primary research interests include sex/gender divisions of labour, women's paid and unpaid work, and women's movements in Canada and globally.



EXPLORING THE POWER OF QUEER SONIC EXPRESSION

Casey Mecija

Assistant professor, Department of Communication & Media Studies

In the film *Yellow Rose*, an undocumented Filipinx youth in the U.S. who has been separated from her parents finds solace in performing her brand of country music. Casey Mecija examines music's reparative function in this context with her study "The Desert's No Home for a 'Rose: Filipinx Childhood and Music as Aesthetic Experience." Using a sound studies lens in her analysis of Diane Paragas' 2019 musical drama, Mecija explores how the aspiring country singer uses music to "create new relational possibilities to trauma, pain and hope connected to diasporic life." She notes how "queer sonic expression"—which she describes as the unassimilable qualities of sound and genre—makes it possible to "broaden racialized imaginings of Filipinx childhood."

Mecija, whose research focuses on sound, diaspora, gender, sexuality and Filipinx studies, published her study in the *Global Studies of Childhood* journal.

DISSECTING MAINSTREAM MOTHERING STANDARDS

Andrea O'Reilly

Professor, School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

"Motherhood Studies" is a field Andrea O'Reilly established in 2006, and today, it is a globally recognized academic discipline focused on motherhood and how it intersects with feminism. In O'Reilly's newest scholarly work, she has edited a collection of reflections titled *Normative Motherhood: Regulations, Representations, and Reclamation*, an intersectional analysis of mainstream standards for mothering.

The publication (Demeter Press, May 2023) is a collaboration with 15 other scholars on how public policy, workplace practices, family arrangements and modern culture shape motherhood. The contributors look at factors such as representations of motherhood on social media, misogynistic breastfeeding activism—or "lactivism," the historical evolution of motherhood manuals and intergenerational trauma. O'Reilly's examination shows how normative motherhood adversely impacts women's lives and how they can resist its imperatives.



HOW GIRL ACTORS SHAPED MEDIEVAL, EARLY MODERN THEATRE

Deanne Williams

Professor, Department of English

Scholars have long thought that men dominated the stages of medieval and early modern theatre—but a new book by medieval literature and girlhood studies scholar Deanne Williams debunks that assumption by systematically documenting the presence of the girl actor.

In *Girl Culture in the Middle Ages and Renaissance: Performance and Pedagogy*, Williams presents evidence of various plays—medieval religious dramas, Tudor civic pageants, Elizabethan country house entertainment—in which girls were performers and sometimes even the creators. To be released in June 2023 by Bloomsbury Publishing, the book also draws on eyewitness accounts, payment records and stage directions. In examining the broader historical context of girl culture—in singing, writing, translating—and the girl actor's impact on constructions of girlhood in Shakespeare's works, Williams demonstrates that girls' dramatic, musical and literary performances actively shaped medieval and early modern culture.

Empowering Black scholars



Gertrude Mianda



Ola Mohammed



Shamette Hepburn



Lance Balthazar

SUPPORTING RESEARCH BY BLACK SCHOLARS

When interrogating the Black experience in Canada and beyond, recipients of the Black Scholars Research Fund bring diverse perspectives on racism and justice and how these are addressed in social institutions.

Established in 2020 by LA&PS in response to the deep inequities faced by Black researchers, it provides awards of \$5,000 to support original and innovative research by Black faculty members.

In 2021-22, almost \$30,000 was awarded to seven projects. Among them is a virtual museum of the life of prominent abolitionist Harriett Tubman, developed by **Gertrude Mianda** of the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies program at York University's Glendon Campus.

Meanwhile, **Ola Mohammed** in the Department of Humanities explores the cultural and political importance of Black college and commercial radio broadcasting in Toronto.

School of Social Work professor **Shamette Hepburn** studies Black resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic and related frameworks for practice.

STRENGTHENING POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH

In recognition of the disparity of research development opportunities for up-and-coming Black scholars in Canada, LA&PS established the Championing Emerging Black Scholars initiative.

Each year, the initiative prioritizes two qualified applicants for a LA&PS Postdoctoral Fellowship who self-identify as a Black person of African Descent. In 2022-23, this initiative was broadened to encompass self-identifying Indigenous scholars. Through this effort, the Faculty has welcomed outstanding Black postdoctoral fellows, including:

Lance Balthazar, formerly an adjunct professor in the Department of Philosophy at Austin Community College, whose Fellowship enabled him to work with Philosophy professors Jacob Beck and Kevin Lande on a project called "How Things Look and Why They Look That Way: Investigations in Vision at the Empirical-Philosophical Intersection."



1. Oloto Arni, 2022 DARE Undergraduate Researcher.



2. Hiba Yasin, 2021 Tom Janes Award for Black Scholars recipient.



3. Opening of the Undergraduate Black Student Lounge.

Achieving positive community impact

LA&PS pursued projects in 2021-22 with purposes such as protecting children in the digital world, supporting climate action through Indigenous knowledge and advancing LGBTQ rights.

ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS WITH INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Angele Alook

Assistant professor, School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

What we can learn about environmental stewardship from Indigenous ways of knowing is the focus of a new research endeavour being co-led by Angele Alook, a scholar of climate justice, gender issues, Indigenous feminism and labour studies.

“Indigenous Climate Leadership and Self-Determined Futures” is applying Indigenous research and knowledge-sharing methods to develop a distinct Indigenous understanding and practice of One Health. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines One

Health as an approach that recognizes that people's health is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment. Alook is co-PI of the interdisciplinary project, which is supported by York's Catalyzing Interdisciplinary Research Clusters initiative and includes three other LA&PS researchers.

By using arts-based approaches, digital media, storytelling, photography, graphic novels, language and land-based activity handbooks, the research will identify what Indigenous climate leadership entails at multiple levels.



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S DIGITAL RIGHTS

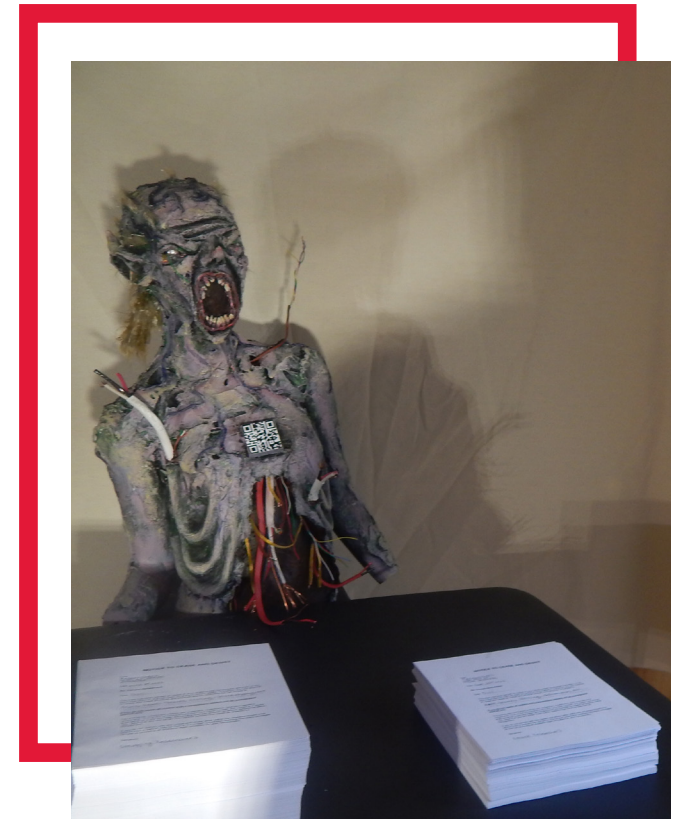
Natalie Coulter

Associate professor, Department of Communication & Media Studies
Director, Institute for Research on Digital Literacies

In an age where children have unprecedented access to digital technology, they are easy targets for exploitation. It is an issue Natalie Coulter is investigating with “Kids, KidTech and the Metaverse: Global childhoods in digital capitalism.”

Funded by a \$199,376 SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, Coulter's three-year study focuses on how global tech companies manipulate young people's online experiences. She argues that the metaverse, where children can create, play, shop, learn and socialize, needs to be studied so that we can effectively protect their digital rights.

Coulter is partnering on this interdisciplinary project with five other York professors from LA&PS and Glendon College, and with scholars from eight other local and global research institutions. Coulter hopes to help families, educators and policymakers better understand children's immersive digital spaces and navigate the rapid changes in their digital lives.



“Online Troll” 2023 created by artist and York student Sarah Hancock.

ADVANCING MORE EFFECTIVE DETRANSITION CARE

Kinnon MacKinnon

Assistant professor, School of Social Work

Individuals undergoing gender detransition can experience stigma and misunderstanding, making the need for effective care critical. Kinnon MacKinnon wants to recognize current gaps in gender care and improve support for those shifting or reversing a gender transition.

MacKinnon is partnering with researchers from four Canadian universities on the project “Developing data-driven and community-engaged supports for detransition and other non-linear gender transitions.” Funded by a \$25,076 Connection Grant from SSHRC, the project shares recent research

on detransitioning and feedback from 2SLGBTQ individuals and organizations to identify the types of mental and physical supports that are needed.

MacKinnon, whose research interests are community-based research, institutional ethnography, gender care ethics and practice, and social work education, aims to develop data-driven knowledge that can help detransitioning individuals deal with the complicated feelings the process can trigger and better navigate health, social and legal systems.

HOW PANDEMIC-ERA VENEZUELAN LGBT REFUGEES FARED IN BRAZIL, COLOMBIA

Yvonne Su

Assistant professor, Department of Equity Studies

The experiences of Venezuelan LGBTQ+ refugees in two neighbouring countries during the COVID-19 pandemic is the focus of new research by politics, Asian/Pacific studies and international development scholar Yvonne Su. “At the Edge of Safety: Comparing responses to Venezuelan LGBT Refugees in Brazil and Colombia amid COVID-19” explores how the two host countries’ different regulatory and humanitarian environments impacted the refugees’ experiences.

With \$74,592 in support from the SSHRC, Su is collaborating with an international team of scholars to survey 200 LGBT Venezuelan asylum seekers and refugees in Colombia and Brazil to compare their experiences. The two-year study also examines how peer-to-peer networks develop in both the presence and absence of state or international support. Its findings will raise awareness about the understudied topic of South-South queer migration and Southern-led responses to displacement.

UNDERSTANDING THE PANDEMIC’S UNEVEN IMPACT ON BLACK COMMUNITIES

Mohamed Sesay

Assistant professor & coordinator, African Studies Program, Department of Social Science

Sylvia Bawa

Assistant professor, Department of Sociology

As the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged the globe, it disproportionately affected members of Black communities. Assistant professors Mohamed Sesay and Sylvia Bawa want to understand why and find ways to address these social inequities. Sesay and Bawa partnered with Faculty of Health assistant professor Oghenowede Eyawo to lead York’s new interdisciplinary research cluster, Overcoming Epidemics: Transnational Black Communities’ Response, Recovery and Resilience. With \$300,000 in funding from York’s Office of the Vice-President



Research & Innovation, they examine the complex links between health issues, structural inequalities and social justice. Together with other LA&PS Faculty and Science, Education and Glendon College researchers, they have partnered with Toronto’s Black Community Health Centre and Black communities in Africa to learn about their epidemic experiences. Aiming to make progress on UN SDG #3, Good Health and Well Being, they are developing solutions these communities can use in future disease outbreaks.

Building collaborative partnerships

LA&PS partnered with diverse community organizations in 2021-22, including other universities, social service agencies, advocacy groups, government ministries and businesses.



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACK YOUTHS IN ONTARIO

Uzo Anucha

Associate professor, School of Social Work

Research shows systemic racism contributes to the economic marginalization of Black people in Ontario. Uzo Anucha, an associate professor at York’s School of Social Work and the founding director of the Applied Social Welfare Research and Evaluation Group, wants to dismantle this inequitable status quo with the Black Economic Empowerment Project.

A collaboration with the Dream Legacy Foundation and the Network for the Advancement of Black Communities, the project aims to remove barriers and build capacities to foster the economic success of Black youths. Its specific objectives are to promote pathways to education, meaningful employment and financial security for young Black Ontarians. With funding from the Black Youth Action Plan of Ontario’s Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services, Anucha supports community stakeholders and relevant government institutions in understanding the systemic changes and interventions required to achieve true Black economic empowerment.

HELPING DISPLACED CHILDREN HEAL WITH MUSIC

Andrea Emberly

Associate professor, Children, Childhood & Youth Program, Department of Humanities

Children forced out of their home country face systemic barriers to resettlement that can affect their well-being. But music can help them tell their own stories and share insight into their lived experiences. This is the driving idea behind a study by Andrea Emberly, “Singing our stories: Networking community musical practices with refugee and newcomer children and young people.”

With \$447,117 in funding from the SSHRC’s Race, Gender and Diversity Initiative competition, Emberly is harnessing music and arts programming to help young refugees or newcomers voice their experiences of displacement, migration and settlement.

Emberly’s research on music and children using an ethnomusicology approach collaborates with LA&PS postdoctoral fellow Dr. Kael Reid, music researchers from Boston University and the University of Melbourne, and community organizations COSTI and Newcomer Women’s Services. This three-year study aims to support the well-being of displaced young people by empowering them to reclaim their stories.



ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY IN PANDEMIC RESPONSES

Luann Good Gingrich

Professor, School of Social Work

COVID-19’s uneven impact on women has sparked an interdisciplinary, community-engaged research project seeking to advance a feminist response to the pandemic.

For “Creating Space: Precarious Status Women Leading Local Pandemic Responses,” Luann Good Gingrich explores ways to enhance gender equality in social and economic pandemic interventions. With \$667,609 in federal funding, Good Gingrich and Osgoode Hall Law School professor Heidi Matthews are co-leading the two-year project with five other York researchers, contributing combined expertise in labour, digital arts, international law and human rights, Indigenous legal traditions and knowledge, feminist and Indigenous methodologies, and migration and Black diaspora studies. Also participating are 10 community partners representing female temporary foreign workers, asylum seekers, Indigenous women and undocumented frontline workers.

With this project, Good Gingrich examines women’s opportunities for self-determination and system change regarding reducing gender-based violence, promoting workplace health and safety, and economic security.

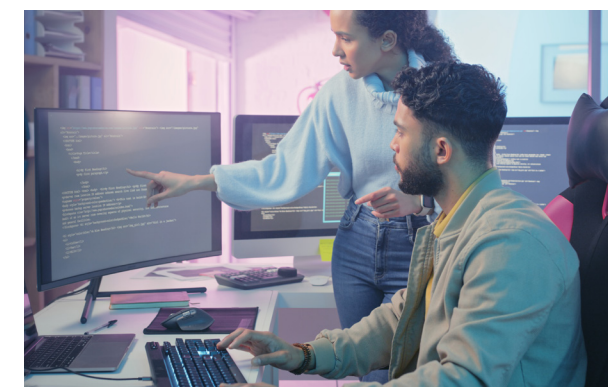
UNDERSTANDING FAMILY RESILIENCY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Maria Liegghio

Associate professor, School of Social Work

Resilience is a fundamental life skill that was vigorously tested by COVID-19. Maria Liegghio wants to understand how Canadians coped with the pandemic with her community-based study, “COVID-19: Fostering Child, Youth, and Family Resilience.” Supported by \$243,201 from a SSHRC Insight Grant, Liegghio is comparing the resiliency of Canadians in two distinct socio-economic and political contexts by analyzing the pandemic responses of Québec and Ontario residents. Specifically, she examines how they responded to the many pandemic-related adversities, and which ones prompted them to access mental health services.

Liegghio’s research interests are children and youth, resilience and trauma and community-based/participatory action research. Her four-year study will shed light on the mental health experiences of families in Canada during times of societal distress or crisis.



IDENTIFYING MORE EFFECTIVE MACHINE LEARNING TECHNIQUES

Marin Litoiu

Professor, School of Information Technology

Web search engines, e-commerce platforms and other similar entities continuously receive large batches of queries that are submitted to a backend database for fast processing. The technology used to process these queries can be inefficient and make errors. It is a problem Marin Litoiu is addressing with “Machine Learning Based Optimization for Database Workloads.”

The study investigates machine learning and self-optimization algorithms that allow for processing database workloads. Litoiu’s goal is to improve the current static memory model, which lacks self-tuning qualities and can become outdated and inaccurate. Litoiu is collaborating with a professor in Engineering at York and community partners IBM Canada Lab and the IBM Centre for Advanced Studies to identify new machine learning techniques that are stable, cost-effective and enable self-tuning and self-optimization to improve database processing.

DOCUMENTING THE ENDURING LESSONS OF HISTORICAL GAY LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

Nick Mulé

Professor, School of Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies and School of Social Work

The evolution of gay rights movements worldwide is the focus of a global community-engaged research project led by gender, sexuality and social policy scholar Nick Mulé.

“Queer Liberation Theory: Resurrection and Development” began in 2010 as a collaboration with the social justice group Queer Ontario to understand the movement's growth in Ontario since the late 1960s. The study has expanded to encompass gay liberation movements across Canada, Australia, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States and some non-Western regions. Multiple grants from the SSHRC, York University and the non-profit Inside Out have funded this research.

Through archival research, qualitative interviews and collaborative theory-development dialogues, the project is examining the main principles of historical gay liberation movements and recontextualizing them in contemporary queer discourse. The goal is to use the insights generated to bridge the complexity of today's LGBTQ movements.



UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECTS OF RESOURCE NATIONALISM

Richard Saunders

Associate professor, Department of Politics

In mineral-rich countries in East and Southern Africa, the 2000s saw increased calls for governments to regulate their mining industries, which foreign-owned companies dominated. Understanding the outcomes of these demands is the aim of “Resource Nationalism in Southern Africa: Policy Challenges and Emerging Opportunities.”

With a \$198,943 SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, Richard Saunders is exploring the politics of resource nationalism in Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe over the last two decades. Over three years, three studies examined different aspects of the policy debates and innovations in resource nationalism in these countries, including the economic and political outcomes of state interventions in their mining industries.

Saunders is conducting this research with the Southern African Institute for Policy and Research, the University of Dar Es Salaam, the University of Ottawa, the University of Windsor and the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association.

DIVERSIFYING THE BUSINESS SPACE

Akolisa Ufodike

Assistant professor, School of Administrative Studies

In 2023, Black people remain severely underrepresented in business. Akolisa Ufodike wants to mitigate this racial inequity with his community-engaged research project, “Practice theory approach to diversity on boards and in business practice.” With \$449,432 in funding from SSHRC's Race, Gender and Diversity Initiative, Ufodike and collaborator Oliver Okafor, an accounting professor at Toronto Metropolitan University, are studying the lived experiences of racism among Black people in Toronto's Jane and Finch community.

Using case studies, focus groups, workshops and field experiments, the study engages educators, employers and other stakeholders to document and determine the barriers preventing Black people from fully participating in business.

Ufodike, whose research interests include accountability, public sector finance, public-private partnerships, and diversity and inclusion, is partnering with the John Ware Institute, Students Against Anti-Black Racism and The Directors College for this project. The three-year study aims to provide resources, opportunities and networks to support diversification in business.



Celebrating research excellence

Meaningful research projects occur across all quarters of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, with many led by our Canada Research Chairs, Ontario Research Chairs and York Research Chairs. In 2021-22, several distinguished scholars investigated defining issues such as racism in policing, Canada's Indigenous history, cybersecurity, migrant labour and the rights of captive animals. Their insights illuminate our understanding of humanity and our world, and the possibilities for transformation.

Canada Research Chairs

1. As the CRC in Indigenous History of North America (Tier 2), **Alan Corbiere** researches Anishinaabe history and culture in the northern Great Lakes region. An Anishinaabe from M'Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island and a member of the History department, Corbiere is partnering with a geospatial expert to co-create an atlas of the First Nations of the 1850 Robinson Huron Treaty Waawiindmaagewin that reflects the group's spiritual dynamics, cultural history and geographical toponyms. In another project funded by the SSHRC, Corbiere and two History colleagues are conducting archival and oral history research to better represent the Indigenous roots of the Humber River watershed and Black Creek Pioneer Village.

2. With his scholarly activity centred on the racialized refugee, Sociology faculty **Christopher Kyriakides** explores the historical conditions of racism in regions that receive displaced people and the creative ways refugees resist oppression. His CRC program in Citizenship, Social Justice and Ethno-Racialization (Tier 2) is involved in multiple SSHRC-funded studies, including a \$3.5 million, seven-year interdisciplinary project involving higher education institutions and civil society organizations in Canada, Jordan, Lebanon, Kenya and Tanzania to study efforts to implement global refugee policies. In another project, he is working to help newcomer youths in Canada gain agency in decision-making about their education and lives.

3. With cybercrime continuing to rise worldwide, organizations increasingly rely on up-to-date research from experts such as CRC in Cybersecurity (Tier 2) **Arash Habibi Lashkari**. The School of Information Technology faculty member has written extensively about digital security, authoring more than 110 academic articles and 10 books, including the 2022 book *Understanding Cybersecurity Law and Digital Privacy: A Common Law Perspective* (Springer). Lashkari's work includes developing vulnerability detection technology to help protect network systems against cyberattacks. He is the co-author of "Understanding Canadian Cybersecurity Laws," a series of articles published in *ITWorldCanada* which won a gold medal from the Canadian Online Publishing Awards.

4. Where digital and algorithmic cultures intersect, you will find **Jennifer Pybus** examining issues regarding capturing and processing personal data. Last year, the CRC in Data, Democracy and AI (Tier 2) completed a project with a UK researcher about how the smartphone SIM card fosters security, identity and a sense of home for refugees. Before that, she co-published an article about datafication in the mobile ecosystem published in the *Information, Communication & Society* journal. Pybus, a faculty member in the Department of Politics, aims to use her CRC position to advance critical data literacy and democratic debate about artificial intelligence.

5. As the CRC in Philosophy of Moral and Social Cognition (Tier 2), **Regina Rini** explores critical topics at the intersection of normative theory and social science with her current research focusing on the ethics of microaggression, the relationship between moral disagreement and moral agency, and the role of partisanship in political epistemology. A faculty member in the Department of Philosophy, she recently co-authored a paper on the personal harms of deepfake audios or videos for the *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*. The study demonstrated how epistemic malfeasance could invade a person's autonomy and cause existential trauma.

6. **Leah Vosko** is generating important new knowledge about employment standards enforcement and deportability of transnational labourers. The CRC in the Political Economy of Gender & Work (Tier 1) is currently the principal investigator of multiple SSHRC-funded studies, one of which focuses on the legal and legislative structures through which Indigenous peoples participate in the Canadian labour force. In another study on Canada's International Mobility Program, the Political Science faculty member tracks differential inclusion in the transformation of temporary migrant labour. In confronting issues of precarious employment, she hopes to advance labour rights and protections among temporary migrant workers.

Ontario Research Chair

7. It is increasingly difficult to parse fact from fiction in the digital age. **Robert W. Gehl** of the Department of Communication & Media Studies examines why in *Social Engineering: How Crowdmasters, Phreaks, Hackers, and Trolls Created a New Form of Manipulative Communication* (2022, The MIT Press). Gehl, the ORC in Digital Governance for Social Justice, co-wrote the book to explore the evolution of manipulative information from early 20th-century propaganda to current online con artists. It describes how hackers and propagandists use social media, big data and AI to advance their agendas. The book injects nuance into the analysis of modern manipulation in a contemporary digital media environment and lends support for a healthier democratic deliberation.



8. What do humans owe to captive animals with cultural practices and traditions? YRC (Tier 1) in Animal Minds **Kristin Andrews** wrestled with this complicated question in a 2022 article she co-wrote for *Philosophy of Science*, “Animal Culture and Animal Welfare.” In the paper, the Philosophy faculty member discusses evidence showing that chimpanzees, apes, monkeys, whales, dolphins, elephants, birds, fish and insects engage in socially inherited behavioural patterns. She suggests that those responsible for animals’ welfare in zoos, farms, sanctuaries and research facilities must show concern for their cultural capacities. The paper asserts that biodiversity—which encompasses cultural behaviours—is worth preserving for its own sake, and animal cultures are as intrinsically valuable as human cultures.

9. In his 2021 article “Mundane Hallucinations and New Wave Relationalism” for the journal *Noûs*, **Jacob Beck** challenges new wave relationalists who reject the existence of a perfect hallucination—one that reflects how things are in the real world but lack a “mind-independent object.” The YRC (Tier 2) in Philosophy of Visual Perception argues new wave relationalism fails to account for the existence of what he refers to as “nature’s perfect hallucinations,” such as “hearing” your child cry when they are sound asleep or “feeling” phone vibrations when your pocket is empty. With funding from the SSHRC and the Canada First Research Excellence Fund, Beck demonstrates that such hallucinations are by-products of noise in our perceptual system.

10. **Lorne Foster**, the YRC in Black Canadian Studies & Human Rights (Tier 1), uses his expertise to help Canadian police forces prioritize social equity and human rights in their operations. A faculty member in the School of Public Policy and Administration, Foster partnered with the Waterloo Regional Police Service to develop a race-based data collection strategy that uses transparent and accountable methods. The project solicited feedback from Waterloo Region residents and aimed to help eliminate systemic racism and enhance BIPOC community members’ trust in policing. He also helped the Ottawa Police Service determine the presence of racial disparities in use-of-force incidents that occurred in 2020.

11. Studying non-official languages in Canada is the focus of a SSHRC-funded project by **Eve Haque**, the YRC in Linguistic Diversity and Community Vitality (Tier 2). As the project’s PI, she partnered with an Algoma University professor and community partners in Sault Ste. Marie to investigate how cultural aid organizations help promote and increase the visibility of heritage languages. In another SSHRC-supported study, Haque examined the role of language in academic freedom cases related to equity. This involved collecting data on free speech cases at universities.

12. **Carmela Murdocca** is the YRC in Reparative and Racial Justice (Tier 2) with the Sociology Department. In her study “Colonial and Racial Genealogies of Socio-Legal Personhood,” she examines how reparative justice reform tends to reinforce rather than alleviate racial violence in incarceration. With \$160,600 in SSHRC funding, she is collaborating with Aboriginal Legal Services to explore how reparative policies follow racist ideologies that perpetuate anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism in the justice system.



Vivek Shraya

Opening doors to community

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH COLLABORATION

The 2022 Kitty Lundy Memorial Lecture was about the power of cooperation to amplify creativity and personal transformation.

At the LA&PS event, accomplished multimedia artist, author and educator Vivek Shraya shared her insights on the topic “Collaboration as a Path to Reinvention.”

The author of a bestselling memoir that touches on misogyny, homophobia and transphobia (*I’m Afraid of Men*, 2018, Penguin Canada), creator of the Polaris Music Prize-nominated album “Part-Time Woman” and a creative writing professor, Shraya shared how working with others allows for creating more meaningful and nuanced works, and the opportunity to uncover a new version of oneself.

A graduate of York’s master’s program in Gender, Feminist & Women’s Studies, Shraya is also the founder of VS Books, which offers mentorship and publishing opportunities to emerging BIPOC writers.

The annual lecture series was established by the family of the late Kitty Lundy to honour the sociology educator, who was known for her passion for teaching, commitment to students and deep connection to social justice issues.

Each year features an individual whose scholarship and creativity address principles Kitty Lundy cared about: engaged learning, equity and the exchange of ideas and knowledge with communities within and outside the university.

THE ALCHEMY OF POSITIVE CHANGE

At LA&PS' inaugural Alchemy Lecture last fall, four international thinkers joined together to confront key issues of our time under the theme, "Borders, Human Itineraries and All Our Relation."

Conceptualized and hosted by Christina Sharpe, the Canada Research Chair in Black Studies in the Humanities, the cross-disciplinary lecture presented a constellation of ideas, perspectives and practices that shape how we live and interact.

Sharing their diverse insights based on their distinct disciplines and geographies were Rinaldo Walcott, a professor and chair of Africana and American Studies at the University at Buffalo; Natalie Diaz (U.S./Mojave/Akimel O'otham), a poet, MacArthur Foundation Fellow and founding director of the Center for Imagination in the Borderlands at Arizona State University;

Dele Adeyemo, Natalie Diaz, Rinaldo Walcott, Nadia Yala Kisukidi and Christina Sharpe



Billy-Ray Belcourt, Lily Cho and David Chariandy

MEDITATING ON REFUGE AND COMMUNITY

LA&PS' 2022 Del & Wanita Smyth Dialogue on Peace, Justice and Human Security focused on how we think about refuge and its implications for safety, community and security.

At the hybrid event, associate dean for Global and Community Engagement Lily Cho spoke with two distinguished Canadian writers in a thought-provoking conversation on the theme *Shelter in Place: A Conversation on Community, Connection and Refuge*.

Billy-Ray Belcourt, a member of the Driftpile Cree Nation in Alberta, shared insights on the link between refuge and loneliness based on his writing about Indigenous experience, oppression and liberation in works such as the Griffin Poetry Prize-winning *This Wound is a World*, and his bestselling book *A History of my Brief Body*, a finalist for the 2020 Governor General's Literary Award for Non-Fiction.

"Loneliness requires us to confront the fact that we are alive, and that being alive sometimes feels difficult, but it also means we are in concert with others who the world also estranges in some

way," said Belcourt, adding that loneliness creates an "effect of having to live in a world that is built so as to enrich some peoples' lives and subjugate others."

Also part of the discussion was York alum David Chariandy, the author of multiple critically acclaimed novels. His works include the novels *Soucouyant*, nominated for several literary awards; *Brother*, winner of the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, among others; and the memoir *I've Been Meaning To Tell You: A Letter To My Daughter*, a meditation on the politics of race today.

"We all want safety. We want human connection. And yet, so often, we are proffered illusions about these things. And perhaps at times, the work of the writer is to puncture those bright balloons of refuge," Chariandy said.

Enabled by bequests from the late Wanita and Professor Delmar Smyth, this annual public event profiles ideas and solutions that promote peace, justice and human security.



Dele Adeyemo, a U.K.-based architect, creative director and urban theorist; and Nadia Yala Kisukidi, an associate professor in French and Africana philosophy at France's Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis University.

"The principle is that in times like these of great crises—climate catastrophe, human catastrophe, eco-fascism, all kinds of fascism, authoritarianism, the complete breakdown of so-called liberal democracies and more—great thinkers, writers, makers and organizers across fields, disciplines and geographies are thinking and moving on bringing another world into view, imagining from and into the possibilities of living in other ways," Sharpe told the audience.

Knopf Canada will publish the book edition of the Alchemy Lecture in October 2023.

NK'MIP CELLARS: EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

While the painful legacy of colonial oppression of Indigenous peoples in Canada continues to endure, a bright spot has emerged with Nk'Mip Cellars, North America's first Indigenous-owned winery.

At the [2021 Avie Bennett Historica Lecture](#), Chief Clarence Louie of the Osoyoos Indian Band in British Columbia's Okanagan region shared his community's two-decade journey of establishing and growing what is now a 121-hectare vineyard that employs more than 100 people and produces about 18,000 cases of wine each year. The business is part of Louie's focus on improving band members' living standards through economic development, including leasing band land to tourism enterprises and forming lucrative business partnerships.

"What we've seen is the most important thing in order to deal with poverty, and the alcohol and drug abuse that comes out of poverty, is to have good-paying jobs," said Louie, a recipient of the Order of Canada.

The online event was part of an international conference on wine production. Established by the Historica Foundation of Canada and endowed by York Chancellor Emeritus Avie Bennett, this annual LA&PS lecture promotes the study of Canada's heritage as a vital and lively academic discipline.

HISTORY THROUGH THE LENSES OF VICO & MARX

The pioneering ideas of 18th century Italian philosopher Giambattista Vico were analyzed alongside those of socialist revolutionary Karl Marx at the [2022 Vico Lecture](#).

Sociology professor Marcello Musto delivered his talk online on the theme "Vico & Marx: Comparing two interpretations of history." Musto's engaging talk covered the two men's personal histories, concepts of history and society—including humanity's role in constructing history and ideas of providence, colonization and nation—and influence on their times.

Musto has significantly contributed to the revival of Marx studies, producing four single-authored books, 11 edited volumes and more than 40 journal articles and book chapters.

The Vico Lecture was established by Elvio DelZotto, former Canadian senator Jerry Grafstein and other community members in memory of DelZotto's law partner Fred Zorzi.



Advancing scholarly inquiry

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMISING SCHOLARS

Continuing its support of promising Canadian or international new scholars in the humanities, social sciences and professional studies, the Faculty welcomed six new LA&PS Postdoctoral Fellows in 2022.

The one-year fellowship program provides \$50,000 to successful applicants to support their research in an area that will foster new collaborations with the York community.

Among the recipients are **Blair Fix**, who has a PhD from York in environmental studies. He is working with Politics professor Jonathan Nitzan on a project called "Does Hierarchy Drive Income Inequality?"

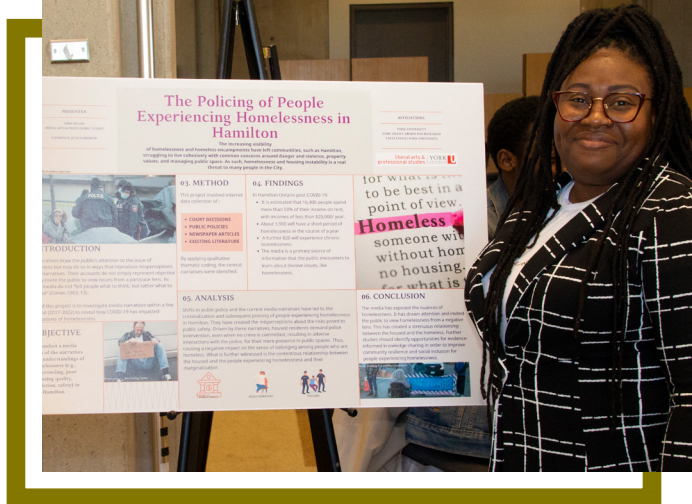


Gerson Scheidweiler, who holds a PhD in communication from the University of Brasilia, is being supervised by Equity Studies professor Yvonne Su on the study "Gendering Migration Policies: An Intersectional Response to Venezuelan Women Refugees in Brazil."



Under the guidance of Humanities professor Markus Reisenleitner, **Alicia Christina Edwards**, who completed a doctoral degree in gothic studies at Manchester Metropolitan University, is leading the study "Re-locating Canada's Black Canadian Geographies and Heritage through Folk Monsters, Hauntings, Legend, and Horror."





Dara Dillon, Urban Studies

ENGAGING UNDERGRADUATES IN RESEARCH

As a champion of high-quality research across the Faculty, LA&PS encourages undergraduate students to participate in progressive, diverse and globally relevant studies with the [Dean's Award for Research Excellence](#).

Each year, more than 50 successful DARE applicants receive \$5,000 to take part in their choice of a LA&PS research project that complements their studies. Over a four-month summer term, the students gain direct experience in the research process while being mentored by a faculty member.

For Commerce student [Aman Chhatwal](#), DARE provided an opportunity to examine gender bias in financial planning careers. Under the guidance of Daniel Richards from the School of Administrative Studies, he helped develop and administer a questionnaire to financial advising professionals and potential clients to test for unconscious bias against females.

Assisting in research gives you hands-on experience in your field. It helped me gain a deeper understanding of the scientific process.

~ Aman Chhatwal, DARE recipient

[Odessa Di Ponio](#), an International Development Studies student, worked with Sociology professor Cary Wu to examine how individual and community trust can shape health equality among immigrants and how race, gender and immigrant status factor into this equation.

Other DARE projects focused on topics such as reparations and transitional justice in Canada; the link between parental trust and adolescent mental health; web-based tools for accessible data visualizations; and barriers to solar and wind energy adoption in Africa.

DARE is a valuable opportunity for undergraduates to get early exposure to conducting research, which enriches their educational experience and skill set.

~Ravi de Costa, Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Studies



Samrine Boutejengout, International Development Studies



DARE event 2022

1. WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRIORITIES OF THE GLOBAL LABOUR RESEARCH CENTRE?

Several global developments such as the pandemic, climate change, inflation, automation and mass migration are significantly impacting the labour market, employment patterns and workers' rights. They are exacerbating the divide between rich and poor and creating social and financial precarity for many people. There is a need for new labour laws and policies that address these urgent issues. Researchers affiliated with the [Global Labour Research Centre](#) work at the intersections of work, employment, labour rights; gender relations in work and labour movements; migration, citizenship and work; revitalization of workers' movements; and work and health. They are shedding new light on the organization of work in the contemporary global economy, and informing public policy discussions about work, employment and labour.

Q & A

with **LUANN**

GOOD-GINGRICH,
director, Global
Labour Research
Centre

2. HOW DOES THE CENTRE GENERATE AND SHARE NEW KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CURRENT LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT TRENDS AND ISSUES?

We engage scholars and activists from diverse disciplines within LA&PS, across York University, at other institutions and in the community to build a comprehensive understanding of today's complex labour and work issues. Mark Thomas of Sociology in LA&PS is examining how new digital technologies are reshaping working time. Other researchers from multiple universities are looking at how cultural workers are collectively responding to precarity. I am leading a study that uses Canada's Labour Force Survey data to look at income and labour impacts of COVID-19 for women, youths and immigrants and implications for government policies.

Our annual John Eleen Lecture focused on developing a worker- and equity-centred clean energy economy. We also hold an annual global research symposium for graduate and postgraduate students. Some of our recent events included a seminar on the experiences of union activities in Mexico's labour movement, and a book launch for *The End of This World: Climate Justice in So-Called Canada*, which was co-authored by LA&PS faculty member Angele Alook. In January, we joined forces with the York University Staff Association to introduce an undergraduate research award.



3. GOING FORWARD, WHAT KEY WAYS WILL THE GLRC WORK TO ACHIEVE POSITIVE CHANGE IN LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT?

One goal is to continue amplifying issues relating to workers' rights, inequality and labour movements in countries in the Global South by strengthening our relationships with international scholars and activists. We also want to continue working on interdisciplinary research that brings together divergent ways of working, knowing and seeing the world. That includes engaging more engineering, math, science and health researchers, as they have unique perspectives and expertise that can be applied to improving the lives of marginalized workers.



LA&PS is home to internationally recognized researchers dedicated to making a global impact, influencing public policy and debate, enriching society and inspiring a new generation of thinkers.

Learn more about our research projects at

www.yorku.ca/laps/research

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