

Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Innovation, Law and Society

Posted: November 5, 2020

Deadline to Apply: January 11, 2021

Osgoode Hall Law School of York University is inviting applications from outstanding researchers for a **Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Innovation, Law and Society**. The successful CRC is expected to have the necessary qualifications to be appointed as a professorial tenure-track or tenured professor at the Assistant or Associate level. Osgoode is one of the world's leading law Faculties and is committed to setting the standard for excellence in — and pushing the boundaries of — legal scholarship and legal education. Osgoode scholars are renowned and well-established leaders in this field. Osgoode believes that the importance of the area of Innovation, Law and Society, with particular regard to Artificial Intelligence, will only grow, and that we have a unique opportunity to continue as innovative thought leaders shaping the legal landscape nationally, and internationally, in this area.

A CRC in Innovation, Law and Society would be well situated within the priorities of both York's and Osgoode's Strategic Research Plans. In particular, it aligns with York's research themes of "Exploring and Interrogating the Frontiers of Science and Technology", "Forging a Just and Equitable World", and "Integrating Entrepreneurial Innovation and the Public Good". It also supports York's interest in the following areas of research opportunity for further growth: "Digital Cultures", "Integration of Artificial Intelligence into Society", and "Public Engagement for a Just and Sustainable World". This CRC also reflects priorities identified in Osgoode's Strategic Research Plan, especially promoting research initiatives advancing access to justice, and developing the relationship between new technology and law.

We also see clear advantages and opportunities to further enhance new and existing partnerships with the Schulich School of Business and the Lassonde School of Engineering, as well as with several of Osgoode's research centres, particularly IP Osgoode, the Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution, the Nathanson Centre on Transnational Human Rights, Crime and Security and the Hennick Centre for Business and Law. The ideal candidate will demonstrate how they would aim to collaborate with other members of Osgoode, including Osgoode's research centres, as well as with scholars in other York divisions. In this respect, applicants are asked to address potential connections between the proposed research plan and one or more other Faculties or research centres at Osgoode.

The selected candidate for this Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Innovation, Law and Society will be an exceptional scholar acknowledged by their peers as having an emerging international reputation in the study of the implications of Artificial Intelligence as it relates to Innovation, Law and Society. The successful candidate will be expected to engage in outstanding, innovative, and, as appropriate, externally funded research at the highest level. Candidates must provide evidence of research excellence, or promise of research excellence, of a recognized international caliber as demonstrated in: the research statement; a record of publications (or forthcoming publications) with significant journals in the field; presentations at major conferences; awards and accolades; and strong recommendations from referees of high standing.

Evidence of excellence or promise of excellence in teaching will be provided through: the teaching

statement; teaching accomplishments and pedagogical innovations including in high priority areas such as experiential education and technology enhanced learning; teaching evaluations; and strong letters of reference.

The selected candidate's scholarly expertise in innovation will engage with some aspects of the following issues:

- **Technology, IP, Privacy and Security** (e.g. data ownership, governance and access, cybersecurity, privacy, algorithmic accountability, web development and the law, AI and the use of big data, internet policy and intellectual property and the gendered or racialized implications of the foregoing).
- **Domestic and International Human Rights, Criminal and Business Regulation** (e.g. financial technology and regulation, "smart" contracts, legal and ethical regulation of AI and robotics, and ICT regulation).
- **Future of Legal Services, Legal Education and Research** (e.g. use of predictive technology in the justice system, access to justice, including online, virtual and remote legal services and the implications for disadvantaged groups, professional responsibility, metrics, data and evaluation of technology in legal education).

Candidates are expected to present, as part of their application, a statement demonstrating that they meet the criteria to be appointed as a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair, and a well-elaborated research agenda that sets out their plans and ideas for the first four to five years of their tenure as a CRC holder. The holder of the Canada Research Chair is expected to seek grants to support their research from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), and this expectation should also be addressed in the research agenda.

Finally, candidates are also asked to approach their application as an opportunity to make the case for why and how their own research agenda is, in the candidate's view, of central importance to the future evolution of this area of law.

Strategic Commitments

More generally, Osgoode approaches faculty recruitment with an openness to learning about emerging or projected approaches to legal research and legal education from candidates themselves. As such, the recruitment committee places considerable emphasis on a candidates' ability to contribute to the enrichment of Osgoode's academic community and intellectual life — as well as to wider societal debates.

In preparing their applications, candidates are encouraged to take into account and to address, as relevant to their application, the following general strategic commitments. Osgoode is committed to:

- combatting Anti-Black racism in our teaching and curriculum, and dismantling systems of institutionalized racism in our society;
- deepening the integration of Indigenous Law and the perspectives and experiences of Indigenous peoples and persons throughout the Law School's curriculum and community life, as well as strengthening Osgoode's long-standing leadership in this area of scholarship;

- innovations in pedagogy and legal education, including a learning environment that values both experiential education and student exposure to a variety of theoretical perspectives on law, and that understands the instructional needs of our diverse JD and graduate student community;
- expanding the breadth of research methodologies brought to bear on research and teaching, whether these be new methodologies or existing methodologies. Areas that Osgoode seeks to better represent include quantitative empirical research methods and various interdisciplinary perspectives on law, such as economic analysis of law and feminist theory;
- engaging with comparative and bijural approaches to law, including Civil Law traditions and approaches that promote Osgoode's leadership in global debates and research on globalizing social, political, economic, and cultural relations and related to associated transnational, international, and comparative legal processes and norms;
- examining temporal contexts in law and legal transformation including, but not limited to, studies in legal history and digital and technological transformation which will shape the future of law and legal terrains; and
- faculty research intensification through supporting faculty in building strong scholarly research and publication records, successful external funding applications and effective knowledge mobilization activities.

Canada Research Chair Program Eligibility Criteria

The Canada Research Chairs program seeks to attract outstanding researchers for careers at Canadian universities. Appointment to a Tier 2 Chair is for five years, renewable once, and comes with enhanced research support from the program. Tier 2 Chairs are intended for exceptional emerging scholars (i.e., those who, at the time of nomination, are within 10 years of attaining their highest degree, with consideration for career breaks) who should, at a minimum, be assistant or associate professors, or possess the necessary qualifications to be appointed to these levels.

Applicants who are more than 10 years from having earned their highest degree (and where career breaks exist, such as maternity, parental or extended sick leave, clinical training, etc.) may have their eligibility for a Tier 2 Chair assessed through the program's [Tier 2 justification process](#). Where the potential candidate has obtained more than one PhD, or has obtained a professional degree (MD, DVM, DDS, DC, etc.) in addition to a PhD, and the first of these degrees is obtained more than 10 years previous, a Tier 2 justification is required. Further CRC program information and eligibility criteria can be found at the following website: <http://www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca>

The successful candidate will be required to work with the Law School and the Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation to prepare the formal CRC nomination. The Chair is subject to approval by the CRC program review process.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, in accordance with government regulations, Canadian citizens, Permanent Residents, and Indigenous People in Canada will be given priority.

Commitment to Equity

Osgoode Hall Law School is committed to the principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion, broadly understood. For this nomination, we are particularly interested in candidates with diverse backgrounds and especially encourage candidates in equity, diversity and inclusion categories. As a part of this commitment, the Law School's Employment Equity Plan aims to increase the representation of faculty

members from five groups: women, racialized persons, Indigenous persons, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ2+ persons. Persons identifying as members of these equity-seeking groups are particularly encouraged to apply.

Osgoode Hall Law School is committed to working towards a barrier-free workplace and to expanding the accessibility of the workplace to persons with disabilities. Candidates who require accommodation during the selection process are invited to contact facultyrecruitment@osgoode.yorku.ca.

York University recognizes the legitimate impact that leaves such as maternity leave, parental leave, or leave due to illness, may have on a candidate's record of achievement. Applicants are encouraged to explain in their application the impact that career interruptions may have had on their record of research achievement; this will be taken into careful consideration during the assessment process.

Application Details

This position, subject to budgetary approval, will commence **July 1, 2021**.

Interested individuals should send an application that includes:

- cover letter
- *curriculum vitae* (CV)
- names of at least three referees who the candidate has asked to send references (candidates may arrange for as many reference letters as they wish, with a suggestion of five or six being ideal)
- copies of graduate and/or law transcripts
- research agenda (up to 1,500 words)
- copies of relevant publications (up to 10)
- statement of teaching philosophy

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible, and in any event no later than **January 11, 2021**.

Reference letters should be submitted directly by referees to: facultyrecruitment@osgoode.yorku.ca.

Applicants who wish to discuss their potential application in advance of applying are invited to contact the Chair of the Faculty Recruitment Committee, Professor Eric Tucker at ETucker@osgoode.yorku.ca.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to apply.

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