



FEDERATION FOR THE  
HUMANITIES AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

75

FÉDÉRATION  
DES SCIENCES  
HUMAINES

SMART IDEAS for a better tomorrow  
DES BONNES IDÉES pour un monde meilleur



CANADA'S TOP RESEARCHERS CAN HELP PARLIAMENTARIANS BUILD A BETTER TOMORROW

## Learn how humanities and social sciences researchers are helping to build Canada



**Canada's humanities and social sciences researchers deepen our understanding of modern social, cultural, technological, environmental, economic and health issues.**

Through research, teaching and community engagement, scholars are helping explore profound questions about who we are as Canadians and what kind of future we want for ourselves and our country.

The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences is a national, member-based organization that represents Canada's professors, students and practitioners in the humanities and social sciences. We connect researchers to the media, the public and decision-makers. We bring scholars to Parliament Hill to share insights on topical issues through our *Big Thinking* lecture series. We also organize Canada's largest academic gathering every year, the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

### SMART IDEAS FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Let us introduce you to experts on issues that matter to you.

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### WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Roughly 600,000 post-secondary students are enrolled in humanities and social sciences programs in Canada today. Employers are putting a premium on the skills that are acquired through humanities and social sciences learning—skills such as problem-solving, analytical thinking, communications and leadership.



Graduates work in a wide range of sectors, including education, law, finance, communications, media and the public service. Earnings for our graduates are comparable to those in many other disciplines.



Canada's humanities and social sciences research community comprises about 24,000 full-time university faculty teachers, 21,000 doctoral students and 46,000 master's students.



The research of these scholars is supported by the federal government's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) through competitive grants—as many as 12,500 applications are submitted for research funding each year. Many of these projects will make a substantial, direct contribution to improving public policy and legislative initiatives.



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## Learn how smart ideas are helping Canadians become more innovative and productive



### Canada's leading thinkers are working to unlock better ways to spur innovation and productivity in Canada.

In a rapidly evolving global economy, with a growing service sector, Canadians need skills in arts, education and design alongside expertise in science and technology. Humanities and social sciences researchers are collaborating across disciplines and working with communities, businesses and governments to build Canada's innovation agenda. Canadians use this knowledge to drive inclusive growth and improve people's lives.

#### We're making Canada a more innovative country by:

- Exploring and testing new methods of organization, creation and production
- Understanding the challenges of adapting to and adopting new technologies
- Strengthening creative and problem-solving skills among entrepreneurs, workers and employers
- Exploring social, environmental, economic and health issues
- Expanding international collaboration to make Canada an innovation centre
- Transforming government practices in the digital era

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#### AT WORK FOR CANADIANS

##### Suzanne Stein, Associate Professor, Strategic Foresight and Innovation, OCAD University



Stein works in OCAD's Strategic Innovation Lab (sLab) on business strategy, on organizational change and on designing products and services that focus on user experience. She is a leader who helps decision-makers think creatively and systematically about the future. Strategic foresight is one of sLab's contributions to a multi-institution panel on urbanization in southern Ontario, from now to 2030.

##### Louis Raymond, Emeritus Professor, Research Institute for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières



Dr. Raymond improves the business performance of small and medium-sized companies. His team has identified three important success factors: flexibility, reaction speed and innovation capacity. This work has produced a series of diagnostic tools, used by more than 800 companies, to help small and medium-sized businesses evaluate their competitiveness.

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## Learn how smart ideas are helping improve outcomes for newcomers to Canada



### Canada's leading thinkers on citizenship and immigration are finding fresh ways to help new Canadians fulfill their potential in Canada.

Humanities and social sciences researchers are exploring how family-sponsored immigrants fare and how that compares to the results for economic immigrants. Researchers are also unpacking how experiences vary for refugees and immigrants across different demographic groups.

#### We're finding better approaches to support new citizens by studying:

- How to remove barriers to help refugees and immigrants become fully engaged in Canadian society
- How to help groups that might face targeting for their connections to troubled regions of the world
- Better ways to connect employers and immigrants with the skills they need
- The role of faith communities in integrating newcomers
- Early experiences of skilled immigrants under the new Express Entry system

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#### AT WORK FOR CANADIANS

**Bessma Momani, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Waterloo**



Dr. Momani's research examines the intersection between international economics, finance and global politics. She has a particular interest in working with Arab Canadian youth and exploring ways to help them pursue responsible citizenship to counter disempowerment. Her work challenges negative assumptions about the Middle East and focuses on positive changes among Arab youth.

**Yoko Yoshida, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Dalhousie University**



Dr. Yoshida is using applied social statistics to shed insight into socio-economic inequality, inequality in health, and the integration processes of immigrants. She is part of Pathways to Prosperity: Canada, an alliance of university, community and government partners dedicated to fostering welcoming communities and promoting the integration of immigrants and minorities across Canada.

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## Learn how smart ideas are helping realize a national commitment to reconciliation



Canada's leading thinkers are collaborating with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to strengthen cross-cultural understanding, break down barriers and implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Humanities and social sciences researchers are asking bold questions as they work with Indigenous peoples on our toughest challenges.

### We're looking to improve progress on reconciliation by:

- Promoting understanding and respect for First Nations, Métis and Inuit knowledge
- Preserving and restoring Indigenous languages
- Identifying how to end inequalities in health, education and employment
- Sharing knowledge and ideas for resource management
- Developing new ideas to address issues such as obesity, suicide and substance abuse
- Using arts and culture to stimulate reconciliation
- Learning how to make schooling more welcoming and supportive

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### AT WORK FOR CANADIANS

**Jo-ann Archibald, Associate Dean for Indigenous Education at the University of British Columbia**



Dr. Archibald, Q'um Q'um Xiiem, from the Sto:lo and Xaxli'p First Nations, has dedicated her 40-year career to creating culturally relevant, community-based teacher education and research in Aboriginal communities. Her visionary work has transformed learning for many Indigenous peoples through excellence in curriculum and scholarship.

**Marie-Odile Junker, Professor in the School of Linguistics and Language Studies, Carleton University**



Dr. Junker works with Aboriginal communities to uncover how information and communication technologies can help Aboriginal languages and communities thrive in the 21st century. She has developed websites for the East Cree and Innu languages, and an Algonquian Linguistic Atlas that includes online dictionaries for Cree, Innu, Atikamekw, Blackfoot, Ojibwe and Mitchif.

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## Learn how smart ideas are helping Canadians express identity and solve contemporary challenges



Canada's leading thinkers on art and culture are developing new ways for Canadians to tell our stories, and bring us closer to each other and to the rest of the world.

Humanities and social sciences researchers are helping artists and the public address identity and contemporary topics in a variety of new ways.

### We're helping Canadians explore and express identity by:

- Using artistic processes in research
- Relying on art and the creative process as a way of exploring identity
- Mentoring and developing Canadians' skills in writing, communication and design
- Embedding arts and culture in curricula to reach at-risk students
- Using new digital technologies to create interactive documentaries
- Exploring social problems through literature, theatre and film
- Using technology to expand the impact of artistic mediums such as dance and theatre

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### AT WORK FOR CANADIANS

**Aritha van Herk, Professor, Department of English, University of Calgary**



Van Herk's work expresses and explores questions of Canadian and Albertan identity. Her book *Mavericks* is considered a definitive history of Alberta. She is an international cultural ambassador for Canada and scores of students benefit from her work as a driving force at the University of Calgary's internationally regarded creative writing program.

**Miao Song, Affiliate Assistant Professor, Department of Engineering and Computer Science, Concordia University**



Dr. Song brings an interdisciplinary approach to telling stories. She studied performance arts in China and computer science in Canada. She connects Chinese and Canadian artists and designers through joint productions that use interactive media. Her work appears at international festivals, and she partners with Chinese and Canadian film organizations, such as the National Film Board.

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## Learn how smart ideas are helping new generations become remarkable citizens



Canada's leading thinkers are working to reinvent how to educate young people to better prepare them to play positive roles in communities, society and the economy.

Humanities and social sciences researchers are asking bold questions about the factors that improve citizenship, beyond academic achievement. Increasingly, experiential hands-on learning, such as co-ops and internships, is giving students opportunities to acquire workplace skills that build on their academic work. Technology is being incorporated into teaching in smart ways to allow for interactive, targeted and personalized learning.

### We're looking to improve results for youth by:

- Encouraging critical thinking about our place in the world and in society
- Preparing students to be lifelong learners and problem-solvers
- Creating a broader menu of learning options, to suit all needs
- Reaching rural youth through distance and online learning
- Teaching history in ways that support Aboriginal reconciliation
- Finding the best ways to combat bullying

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### AT WORK FOR CANADIANS

**Joel Westheimer, Professor in the Faculty of Education, University of Ottawa**



One of Dr. Westheimer's core research questions is: What should our schools teach young people about being a citizen? Answering this question is helping researchers focus on how schools can achieve their core mission of teaching a curriculum while also shaping students as active citizens.

**Susanne Lajoie, Professor in the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, McGill University**



Dr. Lajoie designs and assesses new technologies that support learning and training to solve complex real-world problems. By studying how people learn and retain information, Lajoie and her team design innovative, intelligent, computer-based learning environments for high school math and science classrooms and for university medical schools.

How do we realize reconciliation with ABORIGINAL peoples?

How do we tell CANADIAN STORIES?

How do we support YOUTH and EDUCATION?

How do we enhance PRODUCTIVITY and INNOVATION?

How do we strengthen CITIZENSHIP and INTEGRATION?

How do we build Canada's FUTURE?

Comment concrétiser la réconciliation avec les peuples AUTOCHTONES?

Comment raconter LES HISTOIRES CANADIENNES?

Comment soutenir les JEUNES et l'ÉDUCATION?

Comment améliorer la PRODUCTIVITÉ et l'INNOVATION?

Comment renforcer la CITOYENNETÉ et l'INTÉGRATION?

Comment bâtir l'AVENIR du Canada?

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#### About the Federation

The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences is a national, member-based organization of universities and scholarly associations that promotes the value of research and teaching for the advancement of an inclusive, democratic and prosperous society.

#### À propos de la Fédération

La Fédération des sciences humaines est un organisme national composé d'universités et d'associations savantes qui œuvre à la mise en valeur de la recherche et de l'enseignement pour l'avancement d'une société inclusive, démocratique et prospère.

The Federation gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada in its work.

La Fédération exprime sa reconnaissance envers le Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada pour le soutien continu accordé à son travail.

