

Insight Grant Bootcamp: Exercise 2

Building from Successful Summaries – see “Summary Examples” PDF

- ▶ A “snappy sentence” that draws your reviewer in
- ▶ A clear/concise statement of the challenge your project seeks to address
- ▶ A description of the potential influence and impact of the project results



Family name, Given name
[REDACTED]

Summary of Proposal

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Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's policies, such as bringing in 25,000 Syrian refugees in a single year, involve risk. But more importantly they also require trust - trust that the Canadian public will be generously receptive, trust that the Syrians will not be terrorists, and more broadly, trust that openness is the best way to move forward on the global stage. Trudeau is now poised to lead policy discussions across the Americas on issues that include refugee resettlement. Because of trust, Canadians came together to collect supplies, give medical treatment, and provide shelter- our communities have been strengthened. Because of trust, Canada continues to attract the very best from around the world.

Nevertheless, many contemporary societies are clearly experiencing major crises of trust -- particularly in terms of race and ethnic relations. Witness Black Lives Matter and the fallout from the recent Brexit vote. And, even though Canada is generally a high trust country, it is certainly not immune to these challenges: Black Lives Matter has resonated with the experiences of many in our cities, Francophones consistently trust less, and there is an Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous women. If we want to engender healthy communities in Canada and in all ethnically diverse societies then it is vital that these gaps in trust be addressed.

This program of research responds to this challenge with the first comprehensive global analysis focusing on race, ethnicity, and trust. Research consistently shows that people who identify as racial and ethnic minorities are a lot less likely to think that "most people can be trusted" than people who are majority group members. However, it isn't enough to say that some groups trust less and others more, we need to explain how it is that this occurs. When does treatment by authorities matter and why? What role does inequality play? To what extent is trust cultural? Answers to these questions will tell us whether trust can be fostered or whether it is inherited and hence, more durable. Answers to these questions will help facilitate social integration and democracy.

I will provide these answers by collecting and analyzing major datasets from Canada and around the world. At the international and national levels I will analyze multiple waves of Canadian and United States General Social Surveys as well as the World Values Survey. These datasets are ideal because, if combined in new ways, they will contain sufficient numbers of racial and ethnic minority group members for comparative analysis. At the local level I will analyze a new city survey on trust in three major Canadian cities -Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal. Not only do a large number of racial and ethnic minorities make these globally unique cities their home but anti-minority sentiment continues to be an issue. As such, these analyses will provide a unique opportunity to understand how individual-differences mediate racial and ethnic effects and how the micro-level context shapes racial and ethnic differences in trust.

Upon completion this project will have advanced debate in key areas of sociology including race and ethnicity, trust, intergroup relations, public opinion, and quantitative methodologies. It will inform policy on social inclusion and policy on organizational trustworthiness. It will lead to highly trained students who will be involved in the entire research process. Finally, it will lead to the development of public-private partnerships, community knowledge exchange, and to major outreach to national and international media that is based on proven media strategies.



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In British Columbia (BC), food insecurity impacts 41% of First Nations households, compared to 6% of the general Canadian population. In Canada, First Nations off-reserve experience food insecurity at a rate of more than double that of all Canadian households. In contrast, First Nations in BC had large nutritionally self-sufficient populations before European Contact. Why these large discrepancies? Indigenous food systems reflect the environments they are situated in. The revitalization of Indigenous knowledge and practices on the landscape can, in part, ensure Indigenous food security. We will work with the Lil'wat First Nation to investigate strategically and empirically new approaches to land management that safeguard and create greater visibility for Indigenous food systems.

Our collaborative research will investigate the cultural and environmental services related to Indigenous food practices. We will analyze and assess innovative modalities that may revitalize Indigenous food security through operationalizing diverse values and practices in community-level land use planning. Ecosystem services (ES) initiatives represent a promising, yet largely unexplored, framework for restoring Indigenous food-related knowledge and practices. Payments for ecosystem services (PES) programs, which are burgeoning throughout western Canada as well as internationally, work to compensate land owners for providing diverse ecosystem services, such as clean water and biodiversity protection, by using sustainable management techniques. To explore PES programs for Indigenous foodways, we pose a series of questions:

- How can evaluating ES with local stakeholders help to analyze and assess cumulative impacts of resource development on Indigenous foodways?
- How can the potentially adverse impacts of PES programs on Lil'wat food security be mitigated and customary land claims and rights be accommodated within the PES framework?
- What are the most effective pathways for the Lil'wat Nation to engage with ES initiatives, including voluntary PES, as a way to meet broader community goals related to the revitalization of Indigenous foodways?

Our research team will facilitate a series of 8 talking circles and 6 field visits with Lil'wat community members and collaborators to empirically assess and map cultural and ecosystem services within Lil'wat Traditional Territory. We will employ Indigenous research methodologies, alongside cutting-edge techniques in ES valuation and mapping, to monitor impacts of resource activities on Lil'wat foodways and perform preliminary assessment of ES for engagement with a PES. Our outputs will include tactical and operational plans for Lil'wat approaches to PES, alongside other community-defined materials. We will produce a total of 48 electronic map files which will provide broad- and fine-scale data on a range of cultural benefits and services linked to Lil'wat food practices. This research will provide direct mentorship and training for two graduate students, one undergraduate student, and two Lil'wat community members. We will produce timely insights for broader scholarly conversations regarding sustainable and equitable food systems, environmental values, and the decolonization of natural resource management, through publications in Indigenous- and scholarly journals. Our findings will also be published online, and presented at domestic and international conferences. The insights gained from this work will be critical to inform provincial-level policy and regulations for PES, advise newly developing networks of practitioners and institutions engaging with PES, and should be highly transferable to other Indigenous Peoples throughout Canada and internationally.



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CHALLENGE: In 2008, the most recent year of accurate national estimates, Canada's child protective service (CPS) workers investigated 235,842 allegations of child maltreatment (Public Health Canada, 2010). Protecting these children is often thought of as a wicked problem due to the high level of complexity, absence of definitive solutions, and a corresponding lack of public tolerance for errors (Rittel & Webber, 1973). CPS workers and their agencies are constantly struggling in highly politicized environments to protect children and families from harm. One effort to help support workers in their tasks has been to foster positive work environments, hopefully leading to constantly improving practice and better case outcomes. However, recent research has yielded conflicting results. Communicative action, as envisioned by Habermas, offers a promising approach to better understanding and measuring open continuous deliberative processes among workers, supervisors, and managers as they face the inevitable complications of their work. Through these deliberations they create adaptive systems that are responsive to the unique challenges they face.

CONTRIBUTION: This project grew out of a successful Insight Development Grant (IDG) co-funded by SSHRC and Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to examine practice innovations in British Columbia (BC) including one of BC's First Nation delegated CPS agencies. The next step toward building a research base for improved practice is to examine the influence of local agency communication and environment on practice improvement. We will test whether higher communicative action is associated with higher organizational learning and a more positive organizational environment. Additionally, we will determine if higher aggregated local scores on learning environment are associated with specific methods of practice and lower rates of adverse outcomes (re-reporting to CPS and re-entry into out-of-home care). These findings will inform the application of Habermas' theory and aid workers, managers, and policy makers in supporting the best possible child welfare practice.

This three-year study will be conducted in collaboration with British Columbia's Ministry of Children and Family Development and participating CPS-Delegated Aboriginal Agencies and involve province-wide CPS staff surveys to develop local site descriptions. The team will enrich their understanding of local agency functioning and client outcomes with manager interviews in CPS client surveys in selected sites.

Knowledge mobilization (KM) activities will target social work and organizational researchers, CPS professionals, organizational design practitioners, and interested members of the public through online media, webinars, reports, and publications. Student researchers will experience applied research, analysis, writing, and KM in an innovative new line of inquiry.

BENEFIT: This project will identify and describe a more complex and informative picture of relationships among communicative action, agency environment, worker practice, and case outcomes. It will also further the development and validation of methods for organizational assessment. With this knowledge, Canadian practitioners, managers, and policy makers will be better equipped to review CPS practice, identify needs, and enact targeted innovations to improve the quality of practice, and subsequently, client outcomes. The findings and methodology of this study will also serve as a foundation for future Canadian studies in this emerging field of systems thinking and organizational design towards communicative action.

Summary of Proposal

Comparing ourselves to others is a fundamental human tendency. We compare ourselves to others in order to evaluate and understand our abilities, our social standing, and even our own happiness. Perceiving others—whether accurately or inaccurately—as significantly better off than ourselves can influence our behaviors and motivations in various ways. When the gap between ourselves and others seems surmountable, seeing ourselves as worse off than others may motivate self-improvement; when the gap is too large, unfavorable perceptions of ourselves may be discouraging and isolating.

Social success is an important domain of comparison for most people, especially those who have recently moved into a new social environment and are attempting to form new social networks. Canadians typically face this situation multiple times across their lives (e.g., as young students going off to university, as adults relocating to new cities, or as employees transferring into a new team or department at work). Many ask themselves questions such as: *Do my peers and co-workers have more friends than I do? Will I be invited to the social events that other people are being invited to? Is it normal to feel this lonely?*

To date, there has been little direct, systematic research on social comparison processes that occur as people integrate into new communities. Last year, I conducted pilot research following the progress of over 200 first-year university students in the process of forming new friendships and social networks. I found strong evidence for systematic biases in students' perceptions of others' social lives. Specifically, most students overestimated their peers' social successes relative to their own. Almost three times as many students thought they had fewer, as opposed to more, friends and acquaintances than the average UBC first-year. Importantly, these misperceptions were closely linked to students' wellbeing: those students who thought that their peers were doing better than them socially, tended to report lower life satisfaction and reduced feelings of social connectedness.

In the proposed project, I will (1) investigate the sources of these social misperceptions (e.g., students' overreliance on social media to make inferences about their peers' lives), (2) document the extent to which these social misperceptions occur in the general population (e.g., in working adults who have recently relocated to a new city), and (3) explore how and when psychological resilience occurs in this domain—that is, why some individuals respond to the feeling of doing worse than their peers socially by becoming discouraged and further isolating themselves, while others respond with a motivation for social self-improvement and increased intentions to socialize.

As I am a new faculty member, funding from the SSHRC IDG will be critical in helping me to establish a strong independent program of research, attract new students, and collect enough data to serve as the foundation for future grant proposals (such as for the SSHRC Insight Grant). This project is expected to advance basic scientific knowledge about social perception processes and to contribute to greater theoretical understanding of biases and inaccuracies in social comparison. The findings are expected to be of interest to social psychologists and academics in the fields of judgment and decision-making; because it will be conducted with large groups of individuals (including students and non-students), whose well-being and adjustment into new communities will be tracked, this project is also expected to be of interest to scholars in the fields of education, sociology, and anthropology.

I plan to publish the results of this research project in high-visibility peer-reviewed journals and to disseminate the results at academic conferences as well as to the media. The findings are expected to be of interest to people who have recently arrived in new social environments, agencies dedicated to helping newcomers settle in a new city, university administrators interested in facilitating students' transition to university life, parents sending their children away to university for the first time, and to members of the general public interested in social relationships and psychological factors influencing life satisfaction and well-being.

Our minds are constantly evaluating our perceptions and thoughts: what was that I just saw; what does his facial expression mean; where is the nearest coffee shop? But few things in the world are certain – the sun's reflection on the road often looks like water, people look surprised even when they are not, and coffee shops open and close every day. Hence, to appropriately interact with the world and with other people, we must always consider how certain or confident we are in our thoughts, actions, and evaluations of others. This is especially true for children, who must use their sense of confidence both internally – to know when they have successfully learned something – and externally – to evaluate others who may or may not be reliable sources of information.

Children widely differ in the accuracy and consistent use of their confidence representations, leading to both cases of over- and under-confidence. Recently, our lab has developed a novel way of measuring these individual differences and, through a simple, five-minute task, we can assess each child's "confidence acuity": much like an optometrist can assign a single number corresponding to how well a person can see, we can now provide a single number corresponding to how accurately and consistently a child evaluates their confidence in a task. Through this project, we aim to understand how confidence acuity changes with age, how it matters for learning of mathematics, and how children use their own confidence to evaluate others as reliable or unreliable sources of information. These topics will be investigated in the domain of number and early mathematics learning – a notoriously difficult topic for most children to learn and part of Canada and British Columbia's continued focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education.

This project has three objectives. First, we will map the developmental changes in confidence acuity on simple counting, number, and math tasks in children aged 3 to 10. We expect to find that older children are not only better in their math skills, but also in how well they use their confidence representations to support their learning. Second, we will investigate whether confidence matters for early math abilities: we expect that children with poor confidence acuity will struggle on math tests, even when controlling for their underlying knowledge of numbers, counting, etc. And, third, we are interested in how differences in confidence acuity help or hinder children in evaluating other people's confidence and reliability during learning. The requested funds will support these objectives by allowing us to hire personnel and support graduate students that are necessary for carrying out research across such a broad age range and at multiple research sites, including for testing children on-campus, in elementary and primary schools, and at Vancouver's Telus ScienceWorld museum.

Dr. [REDACTED]'s background in studying individual differences in children's basic number sense and language acquisition allow our lab to productively and efficiently carry out this work. Furthermore, the project is a unique opportunity for graduate and undergraduate training, as it bridges across cognitive, developmental, and educational psychology, and tests children across a very broad age range at multiple testing sites. As part of this project, Dr. [REDACTED] intends to supervise two advanced undergraduate students through Canada's first Cognitive Development Summer Internship, a research opportunity typical of leading institutions in the US (e.g., Harvard, Yale, Johns Hopkins). The proposed research will contribute broadly to our scholarly understanding of confidence and development, including identifying how children evaluate themselves and others. Findings on children's internal and external uses of confidence are broadly relevant to the social sciences, and will contribute to our knowledge about human and social development, education and learning, and economic theory. Our findings will also have practical applications: by understanding how children generate their sense of confidence, we can create novel assessments for teachers that will improve classroom learning. And, due to the potential impact on existing theories of confidence, mathematics, and education, the results will be easily disseminated through conferences and research articles in both leading psychology and education journals.



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Summary of Proposal

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Despite decades of important research, advocacy and reform of sexual assault laws, sexual assault remains the violent crime with the lowest levels of reporting, prosecution and conviction. New approaches are needed. The research team contends that many of the failures of the criminal justice system are rooted in discriminatory constructions of the idealized victim of sexual assault which are usually impossible for real women and girls to meet. The proposed project introduces an original "lifespan" approach to explore the intersection of sexism and ageism as it contributes to inadequacies in the legal response to the sexual assault of women and girls in Canada. We explore the barriers to effective enforcement of sexual assault laws for adolescent girls, women at mid-life, and older women, and seek to identify how assumptions, myths and stereotypes create age-specific barriers to access to justice. We will demonstrate that, at each stage in the lifespan, the case law does not reflect the picture of sexual assault that is found in the social science evidence or the experiences of front-line anti-violence workers.

Major reforms to the criminal law of sexual assault between 1982 and 1992 were influenced by the women's movement's efforts to expose the sexist myths and stereotypes that had long informed the law of rape. It is seldom recognized, however, that particular stereotypes about sexual assault and women's sexuality emerge and recede at different points in the lifespan; our study will be the first to disaggregate the study of sexual assault law in this way.

For example, when adolescent girls complain of sexual assault, their stories are filtered through paradoxical societal assumptions that declare them "off-limits" to adult men while simultaneously eroticizing them as sexual temptresses. Age of consent laws are construed as creating only technical "statutory" sexual assaults. Girls' promiscuity and risk-taking is regularly invoked to support the claim that the accused did not know the victim was under-age. For women in midlife, intimate partner sexual assault cases often fail to apply the statutory reforms enacted to protect women from cross-examination about their sexual histories with the accused and downgrade the seriousness of these assaults. Recent data from the United Kingdom suggest that online dating has led to an increase in "date rape" for women in midlife (National Crime Agency, 2016). Older women are typically not seen as targets for sexual violence and these cases are vastly underreported. Our preliminary data on older women suggest that violent sexual assaults committed by strangers are overrepresented in the case law (Grant & Benedet, 2016).

These discrete stages in the life span are not distinct and isolated. Early sexual victimization enhances the likelihood of future victimization. Our work will shed light on aspects of the criminal law of sexual assault that have been overlooked by existing scholarship. We seek to identify specific law reforms that recognize that women experience sexual assault in different contexts throughout the lifespan. The methodology supports these key contentions. We combine interviews with relevant criminal justice system actors and front-line anti-violence workers with a detailed analysis of case law and the social science literature relevant to each of these stages of the lifespan, in order to identify the barriers to prosecuting these cases. We consider how the substantive law, and the rules of evidence and procedure, operate for complainants in each of these groups. Our objective is to recommend reforms to sexual assault law and to the criminal trial process specifically to address the identified barriers for women across the lifespan.



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The public debate over the economic impact of immigration includes two very different characterizations of how immigration affects employment. At one extreme, immigrants are viewed as job stealers, taking jobs from native born workers. At the other, immigration is painted as a source of job creation -- especially through the opening of firms by immigrant entrepreneurs. Many developed economies, including Canada, have preferential admissions policies for entrepreneurs based on this second view. The truth about the impact of immigration on employment in a country such as Canada is much more nuanced and raises interesting questions about how labour markets operate. The goal of this project is to further our knowledge on the direct question of how immigration affects employment in a receiving economy and on the broader question of how labour supply and job creation interact. It fits with the Peak Population Challenge in the Imagining Canada's Future Challenges.

The "job stealing" depiction of immigration assumes there is competition for a fixed number of jobs between new immigrants and established workers. But immigration also affects the creation of jobs. It can do this, in part, because of immigrants themselves opening firms but also because adding more workers to an economy may make it easier for firms to find workers to fill their vacancies. In other work, we found that increasing the number of working age adults in an economy leads to an equal sized increase in employment: immigration doesn't lead to a loss of jobs for other workers. Instead, it seems to induce mechanisms through which the number of jobs increases to match the number of workers.

Understanding those mechanisms will provide us with greater insight into how labour markets operate in general and into how immigration affects economic growth in particular.

We will investigate the relationship between immigration and job creation in three main ways. First, we will examine the growth process of immigrant firms, asking how many jobs they create and what characteristics of the local labour market and the entrepreneur her/himself imply more job creation in a firm. A key element of this will be investigating the role of communities of previous immigrants from the same source country. Second, we will look beyond immigrant owned firms to ask how all firms respond to an increase in local labour supply and how that is related to the wages they set. Third, we will look specifically at the case of the employment of refugees. Here, we are interested in whether firm owners from the same source country as the refugees generate some jobs essentially out of a desire to help the refugees, i.e., whether special relationships between new immigrants and firm owners accounts for some of the employment response to immigration. All three lines of inquiry are made possible by new and unique Canadian data linking immigrant landing records with personal and firm tax records. The linkage to the firm records allows us to track the growth and death of immigrant owned firms and the characteristics of the employees of those firms, including whether they themselves are immigrants.

The results of this project will be of interest to policy makers. The very existence of the business classes for immigrant admissions indicates the hope that governments place in generating job creation by bringing in entrepreneurs. By linking firm growth to immigrant characteristics available in the arrival records, we can provide information for policy makers trying to select successful entrepreneurs. This could also be of interest to the immigrant business community. Finally, it will be of interest to economists because of added insights into how job creation responds to increases in labour supply.



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CHALLENGE: As Canada's population ages, increasing numbers of Canadians will have disabilities that may reduce their well-being and limit their active engagement in life. Assistive technology (AT) includes any device or system (e.g., wheelchairs, mobile applications) that maintains or improves the functional capabilities of people with disabilities. Research, conducted primarily in the United States, has found that AT is a vital means of facilitating social participation, but access varies based a variety of sociodemographic factors. Similarly, there is anecdotal evidence that there is inequitable uptake of AT among different cultural groups in Canada.

Very little research has explored users' AT-related experiences, including access to and use of AT among Canadians from visible minority groups, who are projected to make up >35% of the population by 2036. To ensure equitable access we need to work with AT users and providers to identify problems and concerns, as well as changes to be implemented. By understanding how the age, sex, class, race, and AT use intersect in both complex and taken for granted ways, we can reveal the mechanisms that limit AT access and use and identify solutions to ensure equitable uptake, e.g., the provision of culturally relevant information and services.

CONTRIBUTION: The goals of this intersectional study are 1) to determine to what extent there is a technological divide in access and use of AT between first-generation immigrants to Canada from China, second- and subsequent-generation Chinese-Canadians, and native-born and English-speaking Canadians of European descent and 2) to involve stakeholders in the identification of reasons for this divide and development of appropriate solutions to address these disparities.

We will use a mixed-methods approach to explore the intersections between age, sex, gender, race, class, culture, and AT use. The primary quantitative analysis will identify sociodemographic predictors of the number of devices received. Secondary analyses will identify predictors of satisfaction with AT and psychological impact of AT. We will also examine the impact of AT on well-being. The qualitative portion will explore participants' experiences with accessing and using AT, service providers' prescription practices, and equipment vendors' approaches with these different groups and identify novel approaches to improve AT access and training. Throughout the study, we will benefit from the expertise of our project partners. We will collaborate with participants to identify not only their challenges and concerns, but also the strategies and solutions they would like to see implemented. We will share our results with participants, community organizations, and professional stakeholders through a photo exhibition, workshops, staff in-services, and a study website. We will also communicate results to the academic community through manuscripts in high-impact journals and conference presentations.

BENEFITS: This will be one of the first studies to explore the experiences of Chinese immigrants with AT access and use, and one of the few studies examining their experiences within the Canadian social and health service systems. This research will inform potential changes to practice and policy in the areas of AT prescription, homecare provision, and the built and social environment, with the overall goal of reducing loneliness, increasing social integration, improving quality of life of individuals with disabilities, and ameliorating caregivers' experiences. Research in this area is critical to answer fundamental questions about the equity of AT availability among visible minority populations and to identify solutions to allow Canadians of all backgrounds to lead fulfilling, productive lives.



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The infamous "eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth" precept is emblematic of how we view the ancients and their laws: brutal, violent, and unsophisticated. Nothing, however, could be further from the truth. Evidence from ancient Iraq, Syria, and Israel reveals the presence of nuanced and complex judicial systems at work. The Mesopotamians in particular left behind over 10,000 legal texts, including "practical" documents such as trial records, marriage contracts and wills, fictional court cases, and royal edicts; and a dozen law collections, the most famous being the massive stele engraved with the Laws of Hammurabi. Due to the Israelite scribes' penchant for perishable media, they left behind far less in the form of practical documents, yet major law collections in the Pentateuch reveal that the Israelites were equally active in the realms of case adjudication and law composition.

Scholars have naturally been drawn to the law collections and much important work has uncovered their genetic relationships. Major questions remain, however, about the relationship of the laws to the practical legal documents, and by extension, to the reality behind the laws. I seek to remedy this gap by investigating the origins of both the Mesopotamian collections and the biblical law-book of Deuteronomy through the lens of Mesopotamian trial records, contracts, fictional court cases, and legal-oriented letters. This is new territory on both sides. In Assyriology (the study of ancient Iraq), these practical documents remain scattered in various editions, the vast majority of which lack critical analysis. Some are available in only German or French; others have yet to be translated from Akkadian. In biblical studies, the too-hasty application of Mesopotamian law to the Bible in the early days, later dubbed "parallelomania," has thwarted later generations from finding responsible and productive ways to mine this material. Drawing upon my extensive experience with comparative work in biblical and Mesopotamian literature, I aim to introduce new methods for investigating the rich repository of Mesopotamian legal documents both for its own sake and for the insight that it can yield into biblical law.

The most substantial written output of this project will be a monograph titled *Making a Case: The Emergent Legal Mind in the Ancient Near East* (contracted with Oxford University Press) and a series of peer-reviewed articles targeted to biblical scholars, Assyriologists, and legal historians. These publications will require combing through hundreds of letters, records, contracts, and model cases for evidence of overlap with known "code law," and for this I will benefit from expert assistance from Dylan Johnson, a potential postdoctoral fellow, and two UBC students. As trained RAs, these students will have the chance to produce their own related outputs (both oral and written) with my guidance and to develop transferable skills in collaborative research. In addition, Reinhard Müller of the University of Münster in Germany and I aim to launch a long-term collaboration across our institutions that yields a) a series of related colloquia, each of which has a public component; and b) a co-edited volume that highlights what might be gained by bringing scholars of ancient and modern law into dialogue.

This inquiry into the roots of ancient law naturally lends itself to public outreach. An unfortunate legacy of the Bible is that some of its least tolerant laws continue to be marshalled to justify the oppression of vulnerable populations. Through public events, publications, and a timely podcast series, my team and I aim to provide the Canadian public with the tools to understand the origins of biblical law and the motivation to shape and nuance its ongoing legacy.



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Summary of Proposal

What happens when you retire from a job that is your passion and has served as a critical anchor for your identity both personally and professionally? "When you stop being a surgeon you are nothing" (a retired physician). "You go from hero to zero (a retired police officer). As retirement approaches, what happens when you are a man who believes he has fewer role options outside paid employment (hobbies, time with family, volunteering), and limited experience in exercising them? What will help him to develop a renewed and evolved sense of identity outside of paid work?

The literature indicates both women and men can experience similar and different challenges and successes in transitioning to retirement. It also provides evidence that men who are highly identified with their work often struggle with a successful transition to retirement; they may be less experienced in other life roles may experience a loss of structure, meaning, purpose, and community. To date, research has focused the challenges experienced by these men, with a focus on unsuccessful transitions and their consequences. Less is known about those who are to create structure, meaning, and community in a more diversified context, beyond their work roles. The proposed three-year study will expand the understanding of Canadian older men's successful work-retirement transition experiences.

Specifically, the study will investigate how men 55 years old or older, who have been highly work-identified, are able to find a new sense of community, discover meaning beyond their work role, and engage in activities that give them a renewed sense of purpose in retirement. The study also will provide information on the complexity of the transition related to changes in employment and social life, and its psychological impact, to inform career development theory and practice for this population.

We will begin by asking participants how they define "doing well" in their transition to retirement, then investigate three research questions: (1) What is the transition process for older men who are highly work identified and believe they are "doing well" with transitioning to retirement? (2) What has helped and hindered them in doing well during the transition? (3) What would have been helpful if it had been available to them?

The study will provide insights into the personal perspectives and contextual issues that promote successful transition from paid employment to retirement. Thirty-five men who are 55 years old or older will participate in two individual open-ended interviews. As an exploratory study, the sampling will be across a broad range of occupations. The first interview will begin with a discussion of what "doing well" means to participants. It will focus on the first research question using a narrative/life review method to obtain an account of the story of their personal journey into retirement. The second interview will address the second and third research questions utilizing the Enhanced Critical Incident Technique (ECIT) method to obtain a description of what helped, hindered or would have helped participants' transition.

The research team has been involved in a number of studies involving career/life transitions across the life span. Study results will provide a wealth of examples of how participants succeeded in navigating the transition to retirement, thereby suggesting directions for the development of policy, theory, and practice. Building on earlier studies, we will produce counselling psychology and career development academic/professional publications, and begin development of practically focused workshops and publications initially with our in kind contributors that will benefit a wide range of community audiences provincially and nationally.



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"What does it mean to be Black in Vancouver?" The goal of this longitudinal oral history study is to advance theoretical and practical knowledge about the social and cultural history of Black Canadians in Vancouver, an understudied population in the Canadian research literature. To date, few studies have examined the status, representation and lived experiences of contemporary African Canadians in Vancouver. Most of our current understandings rely on research from the U.S. or eastern Canada.

The proposed study addresses the lack of knowledge about Blacks in Vancouver in academic and archival institutions, through a critical intersectional analysis. Along with race, the project takes into account identities, representation, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, class, colonialism, migration, work, education and intercultural and transnational realities at two point in time. The analysis will be based on an existing corpus of 50 audio-recorded interviews with Black Canadians representing a range of national, ethnic and cultural backgrounds and identities. This rich data has not been accessed since the interviews were conducted by a community organization in 2006-2007. Internal funding facilitated the digitization and transcription of the interviews, and a small feasibility study to ensure the theoretical and practical possibilities of working with this data, and to establish preliminary research questions such as: 1) how participants navigated their identities and challenges and 2) how their intersectional identities have played roles in their opportunities, life choices and activism.

Diaspora theories, critical race and oral history theories and methods frame this qualitative design. In year 1, interviews will be coded and analyzed for patterns and themes using the constant comparative method. Documentary analysis will provide a social and historical context. In year 2, the participants will be re-interviewed 15 years later, using emergent questions and themes from year 1 analysis. This will allow for rich theory creation and tapping into continuities, life changes and insights about societal issues and how the respondents have navigated them. An interactive Black oral history digital archive will be developed and launched in years 3 and 4. Year 5 will be devoted to: an academic book explicating findings as well as the theories, methodologies, and processes underpinning the project, and experiences working in and with African Canadian communities including cultural, ethical and power issues; and a book for general audiences, co-authored with the team's community partners that centers on the visionary inception of their project and allows for the voices of the community to be heard in their own words.

Our expert research team is comprised of highly skilled community members and accomplished academics in the fields of critical race and diaspora studies, policy studies, digital and archival representation, and oral history. This diversity positions us to mobilize new knowledge across varied settings and media. Graduate student researchers will have ample research training and experience with research and knowledge mobilization (KM) activities. KM will include national and international research conferences, scholarly articles, two books, dissemination at public events and through local and social media, and the launch of the digital archive. This innovative project will advance intersectional understandings about race in Canadian society. The study has implications for fields such as education, history and sociology. In the UN-declared Decade of People of African Descent (2015-2024), this project aims to decolonize and revise the historical record, and ensure that Black lives are an integral part of the Canadian narrative.



Family name, Given name

Summary of Proposal

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How do participatory maps impact people's lives? How do we recognize and articulate these impacts? Participatory mapping is a widely embraced but under-evaluated practice used throughout the world by communities, researchers, community development practitioners and government. Participatory mapping is a process that supports local stakeholders to create maps, which in turn are used to communicate a community's knowledge, relationship and experiences of a place. The practice of participatory mapping recognizes that community members are the best source of information about the use of their lands and how changes to these lands impact their livelihoods.

To date, research that critically examines the benefits of participatory mapping has been anecdotal, short-term or concurrent with a given project. Beyond the immediate project activities and outcomes, little is known about the long-term social justice impacts, the unanticipated outcomes, or how different participants recognize and articulate social justice impacts from their own experience. We propose to examine the social justice impacts of participatory mapping to better understand how its practice can create lasting changes in addressing inequity, overcoming structural barriers and contributing to individual rights and collective good.

Our international and interdisciplinary research team will train and mentor two graduate students in qualitative Action Research methodologies, as well as fieldwork practice related to participatory mapping. We will consult and collaborate with international experts to identify three participatory mapping projects that are considered the most influential throughout the world over the past 25 years. We refer to these significant projects as exemplars.

We will explore how social justice impacts are recognized and communicated about these exemplars through articles, reports and other project-related documentation. We will conduct site visits to the three exemplars. We will identify and interview key individuals, both project organizers and community members, involved in the projects and compare the social justice impact written about them with change that is recognizable in those communities today. We will explore the obvious and disguised, the positive and negative, as well as the direct and indirect impacts of these participatory mapping processes.

Guided by the principles of Action Research, this project will give interviewees, both international experts and participants involved in the exemplar projects, the opportunity to reflect on the social justice impacts of their work and re-examine their own practice.

Our project will create a new body of knowledge that evaluates a common research method and development practice. We will disseminate the research findings through a project website, journal articles, conference presentations and a book published with UBC Press. Findings will be made available to all project participants, and where appropriate in their own language. These project results will help guide communities, funding agencies, development practitioners and researchers across Canada and around the globe as they undertake their own projects. Thus, our research will directly contribute to making participatory mapping practice more robust and impactful. This in turn will create lasting positive changes through giving the participants of participatory mapping projects a greater voice in addressing inequity, overcoming structural barriers and contributing to individual rights and collective good.



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Summary of Proposal

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How is it that the world's second most common destination for international labour migrants between 1870 and 1950 - Argentina - did not create laws aimed at excluding certain migrants based on country of origin? As research on the United States, Brazil, Canada, Australia, and elsewhere show, mass migration also sparked policies of exclusion aimed at certain racialized groups. The noteworthy absence of exclusion acts, head taxes, and gentlemen's agreements in Argentina supports both the historiography and popular memory of immigration, which accept at face value the open policies of the country's liberal leaders, who, unlike in most other parts of Latin America, turned 19th-century dreams of large-scale European immigration into a reality.

Nevertheless, the efforts to make the world's second largest white settler society in fact did require active efforts to prevent the immigration of people based on country of origin and to restrict the arrival of other groups also deemed "undesirable." "Grounds for Exclusion" highlights the range of ways that bureaucrats, politicians, and nationalist agitators developed both formal and informal methods to exclude. In the view of many Argentine politicians and bureaucrats, South Asians, Japanese, Chinese, and Roma and to a lesser extent eastern European Jews and Ottoman subjects challenged the very reason for opening the country to immigration in the first place. These groups were seen as undermining the country's already delicate balance between Europeaness, on the one hand, and the presence of Indigenous peoples, people of mixed ancestry, and Afro-Argentines, on the other.

Alongside these concerns about race, unmarried women, people with disabilities, and workers in ill health were also prevented or discouraged from boarding ships bound for Buenos Aires, denied entry to the country, or excluded from the social and civic rights afforded to most other immigrants. The Argentine state and influential thinkers viewed people in ill health and those with disabilities as unproductive and potential charges on the state. Their focus on single mothers was shaped by similar concerns about the future social burden of fatherless children. Single women travellers, on the other hand, were perceived as a moral danger to the Argentine nation.

Border regulation and concerns about the "right" kind of migrants were some of the most enduring questions of the twentieth century for societies across the globe and anti-immigrant sentiments are increasingly common in political discourse and government policies in North America and Europe today. An archivally-grounded study of one of the main participants in global migration at the turn of the twentieth century - Argentina - will provide important insights into an international field of study that resonates with present-day issues.

This project will require 7 months of research in Buenos Aires in the archives of the Foreign Ministry, the National Archives, the National Library, and the Library of Congress of Argentina. It will also benefit from a total of 2 months working in the archives of the foreign ministries of Spain, Italy, Germany, and Austria, where I will examine the role of diplomacy in preventing the departure of certain groups from European ports. This research will lead to a scholarly monograph, journal articles in English and Spanish, conference papers, public presentations in Canada, Argentina, the United States, and Europe, and online articles in English, French, and Spanish. In addition, it seeks to include four students in archival research, to promote digital literacy skills, and to foster students' independent research and knowledge dissemination.



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Summary of Proposal

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Low Earth Orbit (LEO) extends from the upper atmosphere to an altitude of 2,000 km. Hundreds of Earth-imaging satellites are located there, supporting weather-forecasting, agriculture, forestry, fishing, disaster relief, and environmental science. Many of these satellites also provide surveillance and situational awareness for police, coast guards, and militaries. Soon, the number of satellites in LEO could increase ten-fold as companies such as SpaceX, Amazon, and Ottawa-based Telesat launch new 'mega-constellations' to provide broadband to remote communities. SpaceX already has more than 700 of a planned 11,800 such satellites in orbit.

Mega-constellations pose at least three major problems: (1) There are already millions of pieces of human-caused debris in LEO, many of them resulting from collisions between satellites travelling at relative speeds of up to 54,000 km/hour. As each collision creates more debris, the risk of subsequent collisions increases. Known as the 'Kessler Syndrome', this phenomenon of runaway space debris is of great concern to space agencies, militaries, and satellite companies. Mega-constellations will contribute to this problem. (2) The proliferation of satellites in LEO is beginning to interfere with ground-based telescopes, the principle tool in astronomy. (3) Some orbital shells and radio frequencies are already close to carrying capacity.

There are very few international rules in LEO. Companies are free to launch as many satellites as they wish, as long as they register the satellites with a national government (1975 Registration Convention). That government is then responsible for any damage that results (1967 Outer Space Treaty), but only under a fault-based liability standard (1972 Liability Convention) that has never been tested and may be difficult to enforce. As a result, LEO risks becoming a 'tragedy of the commons'---a common area destroyed through overuse.

Satellites can be equipped with new technologies that enable them to be tracked, moved out of the way of identifiable pieces of debris, and de-orbited at the end of their operational lives. The light pollution that is detrimental to astronomy might be reduced by re-aligning solar arrays. But these and other measures add costs, which means that any country requiring them as a condition for registration risks seeing companies registering their satellites in less-demanding jurisdictions, much like cargo ships are registered in 'flag of convenience' states. The limited requirements currently imposed on satellite companies, even by relatively responsible national regulators such as the US Federal Communications Commission, suggest that some sort of multilateral approach is needed.

This project seeks solutions to the governance challenge of mega-constellations by: (1) Reviewing developments in international space law, including recently adopted guidelines on debris mitigation. (2) Comparing LEO to other 'tragedies of the commons' such as the ozone layer and chlorofluorocarbons, and the governance solutions adopted there. (3) Interviewing experts in governments, militaries, and satellite companies about possible solutions. (4) Exploring the possible role of the insurance industry in requiring satellite companies to address these challenges. (5) Exploring the possibility that domestic courts, relying on technological improvements in the tracking of space debris, could establish 'causation' for interference and damage caused to operational satellites and thus incentivize safer practices. (6) Making clear recommendations for an international governance regime that enables the safe and sustainable development of LEO.



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Summary of Proposal

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Humans have a natural capacity for empathy that leads us to respond automatically to others' affective and physiological states. When confronted with the suffering of others, we often experience distress ourselves. However, instead of responding to those in need, we often deliberately turn away. We cross the street to avoid an interaction with a homeless person, or we scroll away from the tragic photos that appear in our news feed. The proposed research explores "empathic disengagement", a phenomenon in which people direct their attention and actions away from people in distress. This project will address three questions: (1) When, how, and why do people disengage from others' suffering? (2) What are the psychological and physical outcomes of empathic disengagement versus those of empathic engagement? (3) Do people have accurate lay theories about outcomes of empathic engagement and disengagement?

A growing body of evidence suggests that engaging in action to alleviate the pain of another person is a reflexive response. Disengagement, on the other hand, has been characterized as an actively-motivated strategy for coping with empathic stress. However, little is known about whether empathic disengagement has psychological and physical costs or benefits.

I will first investigate how people's decisions to disengage from (versus engage with) others' suffering unfolds in real life. I will track natural behavioural patterns and situational antecedents of empathic disengagement in daily life, characterizing the conditions under which people are likely to disengage ("when"), and cataloguing the specific psychological or behavioural strategies that people use to disengage ("how"). I will also examine affective forecasting as a reason that leads people to disengage rather than engage ("why"). I hypothesize that people often choose to disengage because they believe it will reduce their empathic stress.

Secondly, I will examine the effectiveness of empathic disengagement as a mode of coping with empathic stress, compared to empathic engagement. I will test how empathic disengagement and engagement influence people's psychology (positive and negative affect) and physiology (cortisol, heart rate variability (HRV), and sleep quality) in daily life and in the lab. While empathic disengagement may have temporary mood-erasing effects (similar to distraction), I predict that---especially over time---empathic disengagement will lead to negative psychological and physiological consequences, compared to empathic engagement.

Finally, by collecting data about people's beliefs about the effects of empathic disengagement, along with data about the actual effects of empathic disengagement on people's minds and bodies, I will determine the accuracy of people's beliefs regarding these two coping strategies. I predict that people may overestimate the effectiveness of emotional disengagement as a coping strategy for regulating empathic stress, and conversely that they may underestimate the effectiveness of emotional engagement.

News can travel almost instantly across the globe over social media and news feeds. The suffering of others is never more than a click away and can intrude constantly upon our awareness. Empathic engagement and empathic disengagement represent two basic modes of coping with this form of stress, but little is known about their effects on our well-being and physiology. This project will yield findings of relevance to researchers as well as to the general public, in that it will provide information about how people can cope effectively in the face of constant exposure to the suffering of others.



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Summary of Proposal

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The COVID pandemic has created much uncertainty and psychological adjustment issues for elite Canadian athletes. There is awareness of psychological wellbeing concerns amongst current and retired high-performance athletes (Rice et al., 2016). Little is understood about the psychological wellbeing of elite athletes, within and outside sport, over time as they attempt to adapt to the challenges associated with preparing for and recovering from major competitions. Furthermore, sport psychology research often fails to account for athletes' diverse and intersecting social identities that shape their abilities to act in ways that support, protect, and enhance their psychological wellbeing (Sparkes, 2013). Such research reproduces social inequities and marginalizes certain athletes by obscuring their experiences and minimizing what they need to survive and thrive. This research has four objectives:

- (1) Examine how diverse elite Olympian and Paralympian athletes appraise, cope, and adapt to challenges present in an uncertain world and how this impacts their global and sport-specific psychological wellbeing.
- (2) Examine how intersectional identities that produce marginalization and privilege shape elite athletes' appraisal, coping, adaptation, and global and sport-specific psychological wellbeing.
- (3) Identify the resources needed to enhance the capacity of the sport sector to create a more socially just high-performance sport system that attends to athlete psychological adjustment and wellbeing in and beyond sport.
- (4) Develop resources to foster elite athlete psychological wellbeing.

This work builds on ongoing research by our cross-disciplinary research team.

Theoretical Framework: Our research is underpinned by critical feminist and disabilities studies in sport research which postulate that athletes are differently positioned based on intersecting sociocultural forces in relation to gender, sexuality, race, socioeconomic status, and disability, - enabling and constraining their abilities to think, feel, and act in agentic ways (Bundon & Smith, 2017). Sport stress and coping (Crocker et al., 2015) and global and sport specific psychological wellbeing (Ryff, 1989; Lundqvist, 2011) literatures also inform our work where we will attend to how athletes adapt to challenges and how these processes impacts their psychological wellbeing. Our work will contribute theoretically and practically to more equitable solutions to psychological wellbeing challenges in Canadian sport.

Methodology: Adopting a narrative constructionist approach (Reissman, 2008), we will examine the patterns in athletes' stories about their psychological wellbeing over time. Data will be collected over 2 years through a series of 3 life history interviews with 40 Olympic and Paralympic athletes who are diverse in gender, sexuality, race, disability, and socioeconomic status. This longitudinal data will be analyzed using methods of narrative thematic analysis.

Knowledge Mobilization and Expected Outcomes: Findings will inform the development of a toolkit, workshops, and podcast for sport stakeholders in how to foster elite athlete psychological wellbeing.

Using an intersectional frame, this work will contribute theoretically to understanding athlete psychological adjustment and wellbeing. The research will raise sport sector and public awareness of how athletes diverse in social position are differentially situated to adapt throughout their athletic careers. Graduate students will be involved in interviewing, data analysis, and co-authorship of presentations, publications, and knowledge mobilization materials. Finally, KM activities will contribute to applied practice via the development of resources to foster equitable opportunities for athlete psychological wellbeing.



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Summary of Proposal

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Principal Investigator: Russell Lundholm

Summary of Proposed Research

"The changing value of financial analysis in the presence of ETFs"

The creation of exchange traded funds (ETFs) is arguably the most significant financial innovation of the past two decades. There are over 2000 ETFs available on North American exchanges, giving investors a means of trading categories as broad as the world stock market index (iShares MSCI World ETF) and as narrow as water purification (Invesco Global Water ETF). These funds have attracted massive capital flows, first outstripping mutual funds for net inflows in 2003 with estimated assets under management of over \$4 trillion at the end of 2019 (source: Blackrock). In the presence of such a massive change in the tradable assets available to investors, it is not unreasonable to expect that the production of information by the analyst community will also change.

The goal of the proposed research is to understand how the value of firm-level financial analysis varies with the trading opportunities available to investors. In particular, ETFs composed of firms with common payoff characteristics allow investors to eliminate exposure to the common payoff components in their portfolio at very low cost. For example, hedge funds use ETFs to trade the strategy, 'long the firm, short the ETF' in order to concentrate on the long position in a firm without risking exposure to industry or market-wide price movements (See Bloomberg Intelligence, September 8, 2017). A possible consequence of this new trading opportunity is that the value of information about an individual firm has changed. For instance, knowing that common sources of payoff variation can be hedged away, one possibility is that financial analysts shift their attention to collecting information about the idiosyncratic portions of the firm payoff. More generally, in the presence of ETFs, information is more valuable if it pertains to the value of the firm relative to the value of the other firms in the ETF.

We propose to study the content of financial analysts' research reports to look for changes in their emphasis on relative firm attributes rather than absolute attributes. Using textual analysis software we intend to evaluate a large sample of firm-level reports before and after an ETF is introduced in order to detect a change in emphasis. Because different ETFs can hold the same firm while holding different collections of other firms, and because different ETFs launched at different points in time, we have meaningful cross-sectional and time-series variation in our treatment effect.

Our research contributes to the understanding of how information is created, disseminated, and used in the stock market. These are foundational questions in accounting and finance. As information intermediaries whose job it is to create information and sell it to investors, financial analysts are the perfect group to study in order to document how information production responds to changes in investment opportunities. For this reason, not only does our research speak to the academic question of how information arrives and moves through the stock market, it also has direct implications for where financial analysts should invest their effort.



Family name, Given name

Summary of Proposal

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Always growing, always transforming, contemporary literature resists all summaries. It is bent nonetheless by the strongest undercurrents of our era and has become permeated by its visions of loss, decadence, and apocalypse. This research project, titled "Narratives of the Fall: Contemporary Poetics of Ruin," will interrogate the myriad ways these visions have shaped the French and French-Canadian literatures of the twenty-first century. It is the motif of ruins, most of all, that stands at the heart of dozens of narratives, sustaining a sense of dread and urgency that the current pandemic has heightened rather than provoked. I will observe how this literary movement participates in a rhetoric of wariness that circulates through popular culture, politics, and environmental concerns.

The project's initial objective will be to situate the contemporary poetics of ruins within a broader, meandering evolution. Indeed, literature's broken landscapes were shaped by exoticized visions of Rome and Palmyra, but also by the castles and churches gutted during the French Revolution; ruins would come to symbolize adventure, meditation, terror, elation, acting as catalysts on the imaginary forces of each successive century. While a growing wave of scholarship tackles the re-emergence of the motif in discrete works, we still lack an overarching mapping and theorization of its new forms within the Francophone context. Such a methodical approach is necessary to unite this scholarship into a coherent field and thus veritably impact our understanding of present-day literature. The project will, as such, grow out of an extensive literary and critical survey, unpacking our vision of ruins to account for their poetic contagion to history, sexuality, morals, and built or natural environments. Spatial theories will serve to weave these perspectives, as I will borrow from my expertise in geocriticism, geopoetics, ecocriticism, and ecopoetics to reveal essential points of contact between post-industrial, post-apocalyptic, and embodied landscapes. This novel approach will be supported by a keen awareness of the evolving manifestations of a poetics of ruins in photography, film, and other visual media.

"Narratives of the Fall" will be structured around three modules, each attached to the pace and intensity of certain ruinous events: erosion, disintegration, and collapse will seize how a catastrophe can unfold through generations, a lifetime, or mere moments. Its preliminary outputs, which include an edited volume (2020) and multiple peer-reviewed essays, will be complemented by new courses and seminars, five further articles and book chapters, and a monograph. To reach these goals, I will develop the project around four levels of collaboration. The first relies on a longstanding network of academic colleagues in Canada, the United States, and Francophone Europe. The second depends on the close mentorship of students through interactive seminars, artist-centered workshops, and eight ongoing and new assistantships with students of all levels. The third will be based on interviews with both established and understudied authors, allowing me to address the limited scope of critical resources available on contemporary objects. The fourth level will be devoted to the Francophone community of Western Canada, amplifying events I will organize to foster bilingual encounters on the roots and impacts of twenty-first century literatures. While half of the project's outputs, including the monograph, will be in French, the other half will be written in English to support the dissemination of my work.



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Summary of Proposal

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The ability to ask questions is a core feature of the human cognitive capacity for language, unique even among our most closely related primates. Although questions have been studied within formal semantics for several decades, the empirical coverage of research to date is largely limited to a handful of European languages; very little is known about how the form and meaning of questions vary across languages. This project tests the potential universality of core phenomena in the syntax and semantics of questions in a variety of languages, many of them endangered and understudied, from 11 families. This significant cross-linguistic coverage is made possible by the language expertise of our team: with five UBC researchers, three collaborators, and student team members, we will study more than 15 languages including Luganda, Yucatec Mayan, and American Sign Language.

Four research objectives guide the project; we investigate these through targeted studies of individual languages.

Objective 1 focuses on whether languages vary in their inventory of question types, and the consequences for grammar and pragmatics if they do. For example, some Salish languages of British Columbia appear to lack a distinction between 'why' and 'how' questions.

Objective 2 targets mismatches between the form of interrogative clauses and the semantic/pragmatic function of questioning (for example, questions worded as declaratives).

Objective 3 addresses how questions express pragmatic bias towards positive or negative answers.

While in English, default 'yes-no' questions are worded positively (Is it hot?), and negated questions (Isn't it hot?) are biased, in Gitksan (Tsimshianic, British Columbia), unbiased questions contain negation; this is not predicted by standard analyses of question semantics.

Objective 4 investigates the role of logical operators like 'or' in the interpretation of questions. For example, Washo (California) uses a combination of particles for asking alternative questions ('X or Y?'), rather than the element 'or' as English does.

Our research will make empirical, analytical, and theoretical contributions. It will result in novel data from a large set of languages, most of which lack a tradition of formal semantic research; contribute novel semantic analyses of the data we collect; and provide theoretical insights about which properties are universal to all languages, and the limits on language variation. Our investigation bears on the large fundamental question of whether all human languages have the same expressive capabilities. Given that most formal research has so far focused on Indo-European, our cross-linguistic focus is an important step forward in understanding the properties of questions in human languages more broadly.

Our results will have impact beyond theoretical linguistics. They will provide benefits to communities whose languages are endangered and/or understudied, in the form of language documentation and description, archiving and preservation of language data, and the production of pedagogical materials for language teachers and learners. We will also produce a series of storyboards to elicit various question-types from language consultants in fieldwork. These will be disseminated for use by fieldworkers for purposes of theory, description, language documentation, and language preservation. A core focus of our project is training and mentoring graduate students. We emphasize training in the techniques and ethics of fieldwork, theoretical analysis, professional development, and community engagement. Graduate students will be fully involved as junior team members in an apprenticeship capacity; they will collaborate on publications and presentations, and play leadership roles in knowledge mobilization beyond academia.



Family name, Given name



Summary of Proposal

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This proposal consists of two broad projects, linked by a common thread as they aim to establish an empirically robust relationship between production heterogeneity (firms, occupations) and the distribution of income, wealth and consumption expenditures (households, workers).

The first project examines worker sorting across occupations and employers. This exercise is motivated by long-term changes observed in both job characteristics and matching patterns of workers to jobs. These include the growing presence of women in high paying jobs (Cortes et al., 2018), the soaring returns to non-cognitive skills (Deming, 2017), the shrinking labor supply of young men (Aguilar et al., 2017) and the convergence of the occupational distributions of different demographic groups (Hsieh et al., 2019). First, we ask whether the distribution of worker-job match values has changed over time. We still have limited understanding of worker-specific valuations of jobs. Are they explained by productivity patterns? Or are they the by-product of differences in the non-pecuniary value of jobs? To what extent do workers place a different value on job attributes? The proposal aims to characterize the distribution of occupation-specific values that different demographic groups attach to jobs in the US and Canadian labor markets. These questions relate to the debate on the changing nature of work and are of equal interest to academics and policy makers.

Sorting can occur along different margins. Influential studies argue that firm heterogeneity is key to explain the stark employment and wage shifts of past decades (Card et al., 2013; Lamadon et al., 2019). A problem with testing theories of firm sorting is that one can confound characteristics of the workers (skills) and of the firms (productivity). To overcome these limitations, we link measures of worker skills to administrative matched employer-employee earnings data from Sweden. Direct skill measures (cognitive and non-cognitive abilities) will provide snapshots of skill endowments across firms; by controlling for the attributes of workers within a firm, we will be able to estimate heterogeneity in firm-level returns to identical worker skills. This is instrumental to establish which dimensions of firm heterogeneity matter most for sorting and inequality.

The second project focuses on consumption behaviors. The objective is to understand the forces shaping the wellbeing of individuals and households, and their relation to labor market outcomes, wealth and family circumstances. This project is, partly, an assessment of the welfare consequences of the employment and wage patterns examined in the first part of the proposal. The starting point will be a descriptive analysis of wealth discrepancies. Research has documented sustained changes in the concentration of wealth (Piketty and Saez, 2006; Saez and Zucman, 2014; Kuhn and Rios-Rull, 2016). However, wealth in the form of human capital can have as much, if not more, influence on household welfare. This project's questions involve the measurement of different types of wealth and their impact on expenditure patterns. Are there differences in the expenditure choices of households? If so, can they be attributed to wealth alone? Does family background influence consumption and saving behavior, above and beyond wealth? Is there variation in the composition of consumption baskets across households?

Both projects inform the public debate on the origins of economic inequality, and its consequences for consumption and welfare. This line of inquiry aims to advance our understanding of the forces underpinning the matching of workers to jobs and firms, the consumption implications of inequality and the role that family background plays in the distribution of resources.



Family name, Given name

Summary of Proposal

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The study here proposed draws together fieldwork with recent and current research literature on game-based learning (GBL) to identify, elucidate, and evaluate para-cognitive competencies developed in playful learning environments. Its ecological approach builds from a body of 'new materialist' theory, innovative methods for undertaking a cartography of GBL that is distinctive to this medium. Its contribution of new conceptions, procedures and findings to game-based learning research will add to what, and how, we know about the kinds of learning games facilitate, and, crucially, can help illustrate for teachers how to identify and evaluate that learning. Hailed as a critical component of 21st century schooling, digital games are presumed a good way to support students' participation in the global economy. Studies seeking persuasive empirical grounding for game-based literacy and skill acquisition claims have yielded mixed results, however. Much of that research is anecdotally based or uses small samples -- and even where positive gains are recorded as significant, they are rarely replicated. This project arises out of a previous SSHRC-supported study of game-based learning research by genre, which examined learning outcomes relative to game types (i.e. music games, multiplayer games, action games and narrative-driven games). The results were instructive, though not in the way we had expected. Student performance for each genre was measurably, but not greatly, improved. What did become clear was that classroom processes "in the wild" routinely take GBL studies far from their predefined protocols and procedures, and many of the changes we observed from our ludic interventions were outside the study design---and decidedly not part of intended learning objectives. So we were missing much of what was happening---and educationally important achievements can appear meager when so much of what happens, both in classrooms generally and in gameplay in particular, gets overlooked and disregarded as "outside the frame" of study.

To enable a fuller view, this research program begins from the premise that researching GBL means finding ways to study a hybridized, dynamic media ecology that is always "under construction," developing new relationships and forms of engagement. It is time to challenge and change the fundamental theories and models informing GBL research, and this project undertakes just that. Using the extensive literature from game-based learning field studies in K-12 contexts as our point of departure, we pursue commonly reported but uninvestigated conditions and outcomes of learning through games. To do this, we focus on what we provisionally term 'para-cognitive competencies': interactions, aspirations, identities, affiliations, biases and abilities which, while not part of the formal curriculum, and rarely if ever formally assessed, may enable or disable educational success. This includes increased motivation in generally disengaged students, accounts from students of pleasure in learning through play, observable peer-mentorship between more and less experienced players, and many more encouraging on-the-ground dynamics. While witnessed as positive outcomes, these dynamics have not been thoroughly analyzed, nor interrogated. Focusing on learning's para-cognitive dimensions offers a promising reorientation for GBL research to shed much brighter light on how learning and improved classroom dynamics can occur through play. Equally important is to explore and define how educators can be assisted to identify and assign value to these competencies in the context of game-based learning activities, and thereby better support their students in achieving both formal learning objectives and 21st century digital literacies.



Family name, Given name

Summary of Proposal

The summary of your research proposal should indicate clearly the problem or issue to be addressed, the potential contribution of the research both in terms of the advancement of knowledge and of the wider social benefit, etc.

This research proposal addresses SSHRC's future challenge area of Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization (2018-2021).

Objectives: The research involves introducing mindfulness practices in antiracist education courses delivered over three years at two campuses: the University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus (UBC O) and Simon Fraser University (SFU). We hypothesize that mindfulness, as a reflective practice, has the potential to support educators as they navigate unsettling and provocative discussions relating to race, gender, culture and identity. Specifically, the research questions are: How can mindfulness practices support critical self-reflection when discussing privilege and marginalization? How do pre-service and service teachers respond, emotionally, physically and intellectually to mindfulness practices as they engage antiracist education?

Originality: To our knowledge, explicit explorations of mindfulness practices in antiracist education have not been undertaken in any in-depth way in qualitative research and quantitative research.

Following Berila (2014), Burack's (2016) and Magee's (2019) mindful approaches to equity, diversity and inclusion, we intend to introduce mindfulness practices in diversity education courses with a focus on antiracist pedagogy. This project will therefore invite students to reflect on their own social location prior to discussing race, culture, gender, and identity in contemporary society in their own coursework and in their future classrooms. In response to increasingly pluralistic demographics in Canadian society and its classrooms, this research examines how introducing mindfulness practices can provide preservice and service teachers with the necessary knowledge, dispositions, and skills to critically reflect on the dynamic shifts of privilege and marginalization.

Methodology: This study employs qualitative research methods. The team, consisting 2 Canadian researchers, 2 Canadian Research Assistants, and 1 international collaborator with expertise in mindfulness and critical social theory, will undertake focus groups, interviews and field notes. Once a week over the duration of one term, mindfulness practices lasting between ten and 20 minutes will be introduced in antiracist education courses at UBC O and graduate courses SFU. A constant comparative analysis of field notes, focus groups and semi-structured interviews will provide a process through which to build a grounded theory detailing how mindfulness practices impacted on students' conceptions of race, gender, culture and identity.

Expected Outcomes: This research will have the following impacts: 1) contributes to knowledge and implementation of mindfulness practices in antiracist education in Faculties of Education; 2) supports the experiences of pre-service and service teachers using mindfulness practices to critically self-reflect on diverse perspectives of privilege and marginalization; 3) increases research skills for graduate students; 4) mentors graduate students; 5) supports peer-reviewed and professional publications (articles, chapters, edited book); 6) supports the preparation of conference presentations; 7) conceptualizes professional development workshops, seminars, invited talks, colloquia; 8) develops a website as a repository for the research process and equitable and accessible antiracist resources for preservice, service teachers and their students.