

2021 REPORT ON SCHOLARSHIP
Research Impacts on Society and the MacEwan Community





Treaty 6 Territory Land Acknowledgment

MacEwan University is located on Treaty Six Territory, the traditional gathering place for many Indigenous people. We honour and respect the history, languages, ceremonies and culture of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit who call this territory home.

The First People's connection to the land teaches us about our inherent responsibility to protect and respect Mother Earth. With this acknowledgement, we honour the ancestors and children who have been buried here, missing and murdered Indigenous women and men, and the process of ongoing collective healing for all human beings. We are reminded that we are all treaty people and of the responsibility we have to one another.

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*Message from the Associate Vice-President,
Research and Interim Dean, School of Business*

Dr. Craig Kuziemyky



I am pleased to present our 2021 Report on Scholarship at MacEwan University. The MacEwan institutional mandate recognizes the role that scholarship plays in helping us grow boldly. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has affirmed the importance and relevance of MacEwan scholarship for delivering our institutional goals by supporting the needs of the communities we are part of.

MacEwan scholarship is where faculty and student talent, ideas, creativity and ambition come together to enable a better world for all. Our scholarship represents all facets of the scholarship spectrum, including discovery, integrative, scholarship of teaching and learning, and community-engaged scholarship. Our scholarship continues to push the envelope on creating knowledge and understanding, and ranges from creative and artistic works to goal-oriented research that improves health and well-being, to research that supports local and global sustainability.

This report showcases some of the impressive scholarship we are doing across all our faculties and schools. You can find out more about how

climate change impacts our health, how to manage COVID-19 influenced supply chain disruptions, the impact of sport on culture, and how Indigenous and Asian cinema is paving the way for Fourth World cinema. The report also highlights the key role our undergraduate students play in our scholarly pursuits and how we work with community partners to co-create scholarship that has meaningful societal impact.

Looking ahead to 2022, MacEwan University will continue to grow our scholarship pursuits and seek new opportunities to co-create knowledge and understanding with our community partners. Our scholarly success is measured by the impact it has on our students, faculty members and broader communities, and this report provides many examples of just how successful we have been.

Please take the opportunity to review this report to find out more about MacEwan scholarship and explore our [website](#) for additional information. I welcome the opportunity to talk with anyone who would like to find out more about our scholarship or how we can work together. MacEwan scholarship has opportunities for everyone.

School of Business

Supply Chain Disruptions in the Wake of COVID-19

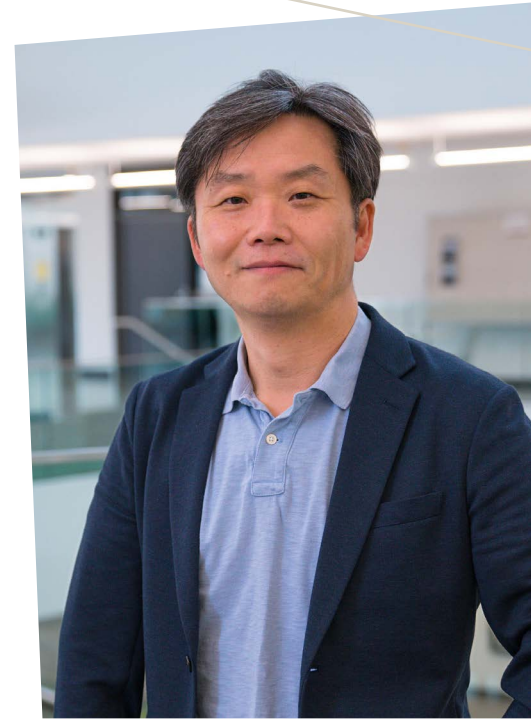
In an ever-growing, ever-changing, high-speed society, it is necessary for businesses to respond to markets and consumers in the same way. Designing the right incentives in a decentralized supply chain system is a necessary component of this. Dr. Joong Y. Son (Associate Professor, Bachelor of Commerce) focuses his research on (1) designing the [right incentives for supply contracts](#) and (2) supply chain disruptions in the stream of supply chain risk management (SCRM).

By using analytical modelling and simulation experimentation, he determines the best possible supply contracts contain policies which enhance overall supply chain performance and incorporate either a revenue-sharing or a risk-sharing mechanism to align the interests of business partners within the supply chain.

Currently, Dr. Son is researching and assessing the impact of supply chain

disruptions considering the current global supply chain crisis due to COVID-19. He is currently expanding this research to identify the right coordination mechanism when a major disruption (like COVID-19) influences the supply chain.

This research is essential as many supply networks operate according to a simple tiered chain, meaning supply chain visibility is normally restricted to the tier-1 suppliers and the tier-1 buyers - not beyond those two levels. However, as the pandemic has exemplified, this approach is not sustainable. Dr. Son's ongoing and future research projects on supply chain coordination and SCRM emphasize the importance of supply chain mapping, which allows businesses to gain improved visibility and protection against disruptive risks. The managerial implications from this research should help businesses identify the right supply chain coordination to be resilient and sustain open doors during major disruptions.



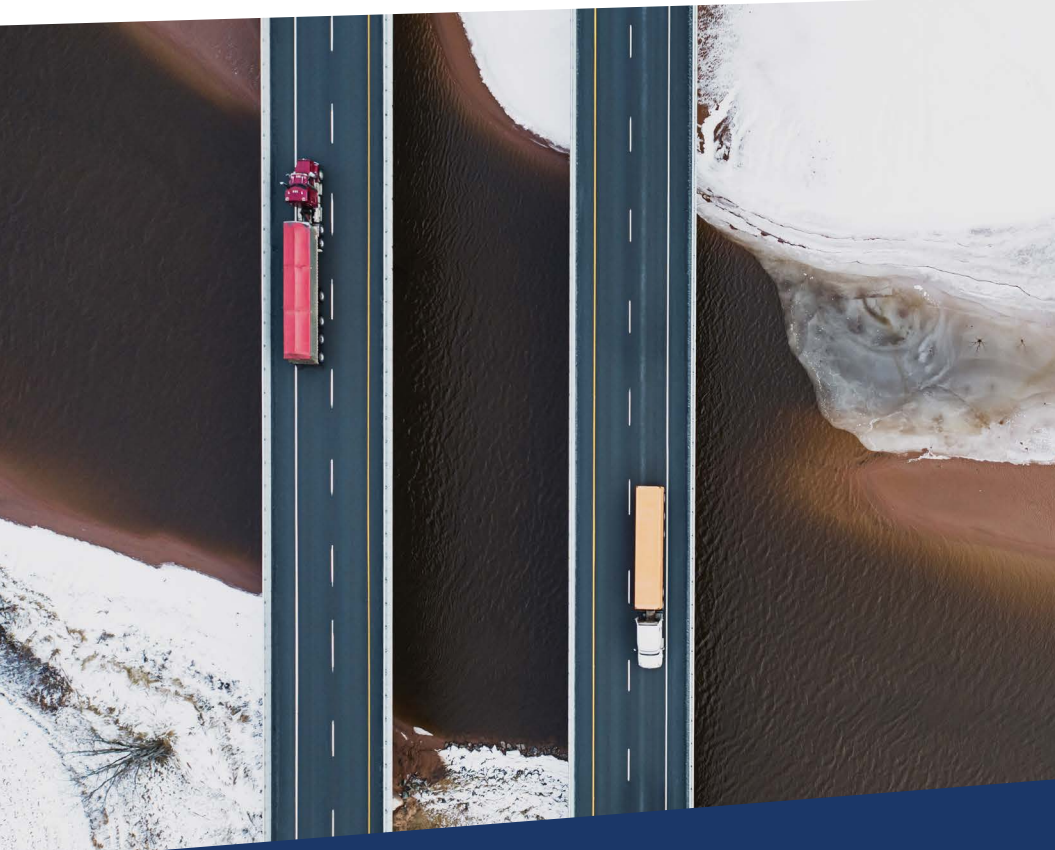
Dr. Joong Y. Son

The Ins and Outs of Supply Chain Management

Supply Chain: the people, systems, activities, etc. a product must go through before reaching the end goal of the consumer (i.e., manufacturer > warehouse > transportation > store > consumer).

Decentralized System: a decentralized system gives the individual components of the supply chain greater independence over decision-making factors.

Coordination Mechanism: the way activities, people and systems are managed/connected within a supply chain.

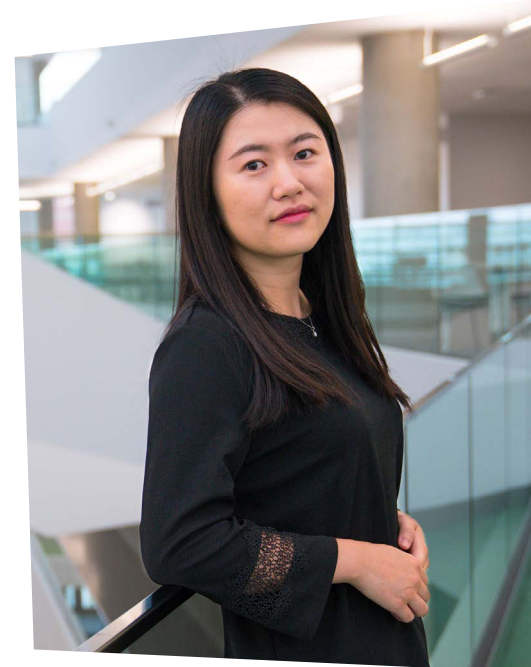


Questioning the Efficacy of Airline Practices

The airline industry is full of complex business practices and revenue management processes. Airline passengers may be interested to know that airlines often sell more tickets for a flight than are available. This process of overbooking flight capacities is performed to limit the number of empty seats on any given flight – but is this really a sustainable business model?

Dr. Xiaojia (Sunny) Wang (Assistant Professor, Bachelor of Commerce) doesn't think so. And her research on improving the [revenue management process for airline alliances](#) seemingly confirms this notion. Building

upon her doctoral dissertation, Dr. Wang designed two option-based mechanisms: (1) reducing overbooking risks and (2) improving the capacity control process by applying finance concepts that enhance cooperation between alliance partners. To test her theories, she uses a computer-based simulation which proves both monetary and non-monetary benefits. This research provides managerial insights for airlines to make better overbooking-related and capacity allocation decisions, which not only benefits airlines but also improves travel experiences for passengers.



Dr. Xiaojia (Sunny) Wang



Dr. Qian (Claire) Deng

Dimensions of Brand-Extension Fit

Growing your brand is a key component of continued growth and success for businesses. Brand extensions provide companies with a way to endeavour into new market areas by using their already established and trusted brand name. In their research, Dr. Qian (Claire) Deng (Assistant Professor, Department of International Business, Marketing, Strategy and Law), alongside co-investigator and co-author Dr. Paul Messinger (University of Alberta), identified six essential dimensions of a good brand-extension fit: feature-based, function-based, resource-based, usage-occasion-based, market-based and image-based fit.

“Brand extensions are indispensable for brand renewal and growth, but they are risky, with a failure rate for many fast-moving consumer goods as high as 80 per cent,” says Dr. Deng.

The success of a brand extension is largely improved when there is a fit between an extension product and the popular parent brand. However, specific guidance for managers to create this fit is lacking. Dr. Deng's research aims to identify the key constituent dimensions of brand-extension fit to help business managers effectively develop extension products that fit well with their parent brand.

Funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Development Grant, the research uses systematic reviews, in-depth interviews, surveys and randomized experiments to identify the six key dimensions of brand-extension fit, and to further demonstrate the extent to which decisions are suboptimal when a brand manager does not use the proposed six dimensions.

Faculty of Arts and Science

Exploring Race and Racialization in South Asian Identities

The societal impact of race and racialization in South Asian transgressive language use is an understudied area of research. Dr. Sara Grewal (Assistant Professor, Department of English) aims to bring more awareness and understanding to these cultural implications in her scholarship on South Asian poetry, focusing on two genres: the ghazal and hip hop. Her research shows how the language used around minoritized groups – Muslims in India, and Sikhs in Canada and the United Kingdom – speaks back to their minoritization, even when the texts at hand are seemingly apolitical.

Dr. Grewal has two book projects that draw upon a combination of literary close reading, personal interviews, literary theory and cultural criticism. The first book, *The Urdu Imaginary: Nationalism and the Ghazalization of Urdu*, examines the Urdu ghazal.

“The ghazal’s travel across languages, as well as its resistance to reification within national, generic or linguistic boundaries reveals the limitations of the very categories we use to read and understand literature at large,” says Dr. Grewal.

The second book, co-written with Dr. Harjeet Singh Grewal (University of Calgary), explores the experiences of male-identified Sikh youths who have dispersed outside their traditional homelands, and how they express their experiences of marginalization, within Canada and the United Kingdom, through the use of hip-hop culture.

“We argue that Sikh subjectivity is always already informed by the notion of ‘dis-locatia’ – an unmoored listlessness that is the by-product of historical processes of movement and exile,” says Dr. Grewal.

Sikh hip hop draws upon [KRS-One’s](#) definition of hip hop as a religion that leads to radical self-knowledge and uses the experience of dis-locatia to show the way Sikh men are represented in the world as understood through a racialized, minoritized and masculine lens.

“My work on Sikh hip hop broadens the field by examining the role of religion and diaspora in shaping rap music in both English and Panjabi,” says Dr. Grewal.



Dr. Sara Grewal

Ghazal

The ghazal is a short poem that uses two-line verses, often expressing pain and loss and the love that can form from these griefs, originating in Arabic, but now widely circulating in Persian, Turkish, Urdu and English.

Urdu Ghazal

The ongoing popularity of this form with audiences throughout South Asia and the diaspora suggests there is an emotional, social and national investment in this poetry. To capture the discourse that reflects the ghazal’s myriad sociopolitical meanings, Dr. Grewal has coined the term the “Urdu imaginary.”



Water Legacy in Edmonton

Dr. Ross Shaw (Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences) is using his research skills to help Edmonton preserve its aquatic ecosystems, while contributing to the local economy. His *Aquatic Biosphere Project*, funded by the Government of Canada's Investment Readiness Program, proposes a water legacy project for the Edmonton Metropolitan Region. The project aims to bring unforgettable visitor experiences for Edmontonians, create new science research facilities, generate job opportunities, promote conservation of native and exotic wildlife, and build nation-to-nation links.

In 2021, Dr. Shaw completed a feasibility study for the project, including a concept, market analysis, stakeholder engagement, facility design criteria,

a site analysis, a business plan and recommendations for next steps.

"My research targets areas that build new economic benefits, support education, develop environmental research and also support industry," says Dr. Shaw.

The research and development of the *Aquatic Biosphere Project* will enhance and inform provincial collaborations with like-minded organizations to conserve and responsibly develop Edmonton's ecosystems.

Dr. Shaw's other research interests are in the areas of marine biology (aquaculture, coral reefs, fish diseases), and educational video game development.



Dr. Brendan Boyd

Democracy in Canada: A Political Science Perspective

Public servants largely see their role as providing support to elected officials and carrying out the decisions of those elected officials. However, there is disagreement on the extent to which public servants need to be completely neutral, avoid political activities and remain anonymous to the public.

Dr. Brendan Boyd (Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Economics & Political Science), along with Dr. Jared Wesley (University of Alberta), Dr. Andrea Rounce (University of Manitoba), Dr. Karine Levasseur (University of Manitoba) and Dr. Isabelle Caron (Dalhousie University), are studying the role unelected officials and institutions play in democracy.

Currently, they are surveying Canadian public servants at the municipal, provincial and federal level, and asking them what they believe their role in

democracy is. The project is funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Development Grant. Initial results suggest that new ways to maintain the traditional public servant role as an impartial advisor and implementer may be required in the 21st century.

"Working to improve our understanding of the role public servants play in our democracy, among the public, politicians and even public servants themselves, is essential to increasing trust in government and contributing to the health of our democracy," says Dr. Boyd. "The field of political science tends to focus on trust and attitudes of politicians and elected leaders, even though research shows that citizens' experiences with the government are often characterized by their interactions with non-partisan, career public servants."

Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications

Urban Wildlife and Immersive Theatre for Early Years

Children in their early years deserve experiences that honour them as citizens and learners, and that respect them as valued members of their communities. By creating works that emphasize children's ideas and meaning making, welcome responses and consider individual interests, children are offered a way of approaching creative processes that places them and their relationships with other children at the centre.

Robyn Ayles (Assistant Professor, Theatre Production), Dr. Heather Fitzsimmons-Frey (Assistant Professor, Arts and Cultural Management), Dr. Jamie Leach (Assistant Professor, Department of Human Services and Early Learning) and Margaret Mykietyshyn (Sessional Instructor, Bachelor of Early Childhood Curriculum Studies) are conducting a joint creation-based research project, with funding from the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications Scholarly Activity Fund and an Office of Research Services Project Grant. The project focuses on theatre for young children through the lens of [Flight: Alberta's Early Learning and Care Framework](#).

"Our iterative and creation-based research is collaborative across

disciplines. It honours children as contributors, not just as passive viewers, and values learning through experience and experimentation," says Ayles.

The project group worked with student research assistants to devise performances inspired by urban wildlife, including magpies, squirrels, hares and chickadees, which were shared with young children and their educators at [Early Learning at MacEwan \(ELM\)](#). Afterwards, the research team reviewed photographs and video of the young audience to support discussions of children's meaning-making, according to the *Flight's* Cycle of Co-Inquiry.

When it comes to thinking about creative work and children, theatre is highly valuable when it is relational. Respectful theatrical engagement with young audiences creates profound experiences for young people and inspires educators and caregivers to embrace creative practices.

"Centering children in our creative process means that we can best create work that directly enriches their lives, and in the spirit of reciprocity, enriches the lives of everyone in their communities," says Dr. Fitzsimmons-Frey.

Student Research Assistants

At MacEwan University, we value student-engaged scholarship and encourage undergraduate involvement in scholarly projects.

This urban wildlife and theatre project was a collaborative effort, utilizing the research capabilities of MacEwan students Emma Abbot (Theatre Arts), Aidan Spila (Theatre Arts), Chelo Ledesma (Theatre Arts), Courtney Dewar (Arts and Cultural Management/Theatre Production Grad) and Sydney Maziarz (Office of Research Services Research Assistant), as well as University of Alberta student Ayla Gandall (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Acting).



Bringing Awareness to Climate Change and Land Reconciliation Through Sound

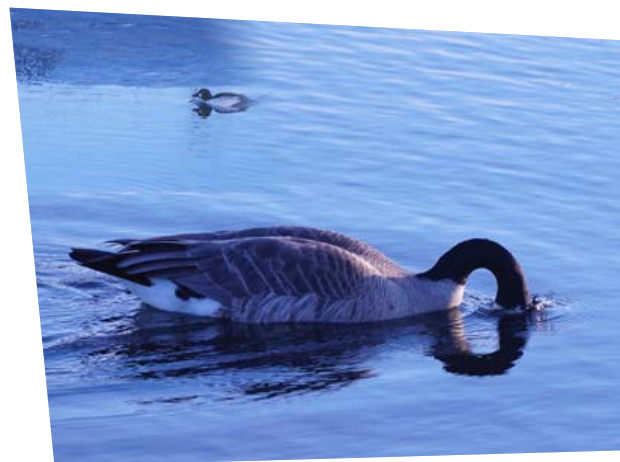
Climate change and reconciliation are two pressing societal concerns that need immediate action. But have you ever considered how sound could be a potential aid? Leslie Sharpe (Associate Professor, Studio Arts) takes an alternative and collaborative approach to addressing and responding to these matters using art and sound to increase awareness.

Sharpe's scholarship vitae includes two main streams: (1) anthropogenic (human-caused) climate change and 2) de-colonizing histories, language and space through the creation of sound art and outdoor projects such as walks, videos and installations.

"Increasingly I find that artists and researchers in other fields have much to offer each other as they pose alternative perspectives or approaches to similar topics. My discussions with biologists for

my [Beak Disorder](#) project allowed us both to see new ways we could present an important issue to different audiences," says Sharpe.

Currently, she is focused on building two research projects involving sound: (1) *Moving Under Where a Glacier Went Over* and (2) *Growing and Going*. Both projects assess and address overlapping themes of human-nonhuman relationships and anthropogenic climate change. Along with this, she is developing a video project, funded by the Office of Research Services and Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications project grants, considering historical narratives of technology by looking at the topic through a decolonizing and gendered lens. This work includes footage shot at various early important sites of wireless history.



Papastew Geese Call

In her creation-based projects, her primary methods of collecting data include archival or field research, field recording in sound, video and photography, digital production and editing, and sculptures or drawings created digitally or by hand with 3D outputs.

Indigenous and Asian Cinema Paving the Way for Fourth World Cinema

Measuring viewers' experiences of films has become a critical issue for filmmakers because all kinds of audiences now have access to new releases from all over the world. Some approaches have focused on the cognitive level of the experience, while others have emphasized the structure of films. Dr. Sony Jalarajan Raj (Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Studies) researches the theoretical values in explaining how texts, industries, creative artists and audiences participate in the meaning-making process of cinema.

"My research clearly traces the changing patterns of individual aesthetics and social transformations," says Dr. Raj.

Dr. Raj is a highly prolific faculty member from the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications, with a research focus on: (1) transnational and crossover cinema, (2) global Indigenous cinema and emerging screens and (3) Asian cinema and Third World new wave.

He is currently focusing on research that assesses how new Asian and Indigenous cinema challenge Hollywood, experiment with plots and garner strong viewership in a post-globalized world. His qualitative studies and receptional analysis show there is a heightened awareness across the world on both Indigenous and Asian cinema, with Canadian Indigenous filmmakers becoming the global trend setters and revolutionaries in Fourth World cinema.

Faculty of Health and Community Studies

Informing Social Work on Sustainability and Reconciliation

“Harmony, truth, justice, equity and respect are at the centre of my African worldview; my research is nurtured by these virtues which are important to anyone both inside and outside of the social work field because these values are at the centre of peoples’ daily personal and professional relationships,” says Dr. Valerie Ouedraogo (Associate Professor, School of Social Work).

Dr. Ouedraogo is focused on developing scholarship that investigates meanings, experiences and aspirations in the context of inequities, oppressions and changes in peoples’ life transitions. In 2021, Dr. Ouedraogo undertook four scholarly projects involving different aspects of these realities:

(1) The first concentrates on environmental sustainability to identify social work fields of practice that complement a sustainable future and develop a network that can inform daily social work practices. The key results of this research indicate the barriers that junior social workers face when advocating for and/or trying to implement sustainable practices. The research shows that practice-based learning will be essential to implementing this sustainable social work.

(2) The second is about international indigenization and global learning in international social work. She is developing an exchange program to study the use of international exchanges in learning practices for social work.

(3) The third is a joint project with Caren Robinson (Research Assistant, 2021 Bachelor of Social Work graduate) that centres on Canadian Indigenous beading knowledge to explore ways that Indigenous cultural practices can inform reconciliation within social work.

(4) Lastly, the fourth project, as a co-investigator with Dr. Linda Kreitzer (University of Calgary) is a document analysis study about African social work history for education and research.

“I believe that my research impacts people in the sense that my topics encourage participants to acknowledge struggles and hopes in their experiences and aspirations for building a good life for themselves and their communities,” says Dr. Ouedraogo.



Dr. Valerie Ouedraogo

Indigenous Beading Knowledge Study

This image highlights Caren Robinson’s beading work in the study phase of the *Indigenous Beading Knowledge Study*, in which the literature review, interview question development and participant recruitment are occurring. The research notes collected in this time will be used in relation to Robinson’s beading work to analyze ways that the study contributes to strengthening her own cultural identity.



The Forgotten Generation: Residential Care, COVID-19 and Depression in Older Adults

Dr. Anna Azulai (Assistant Professor, Bachelor of Social Work) has specific scholarly interests in residential care for persons with chronic health and mental health conditions, mental health in aging and gerontological social work. She is currently the primary investigator in two research projects involving geriatric care strategies and the mental health of aging adults.

Her first project, along with Dr. Hongmei Tong (Associate Professor, Social Work) and Alison Pitcher (MacEwan Librarian), is funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Development Grant and looks at the care of older adults in residential care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Azulai's research team is mapping the care strategies employed during this time to evaluate gaps in care and address the social determinants of health in older adults. This project is

the first of its kind and will inform social workers and other health and allied health professionals who provide care to older adults.

Second, Dr. Azulai developed and evaluated a cost-effective, web-based learning module with simulated case studies to enhance knowledge about geriatric depression among social work, psychiatric nursing and nursing students. The project is funded by an Office of Research Services Project Grant and is a collaborative effort among Dr. Azulai, Dr. Tong, Dr. Jill Vihos (Chair, Department of Interprofessional Education and Simulation Learning), Brandi Pawliuk (Assistant Professor, Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing), Dr. Lynn Feist (Director, eLearning), Mavis Leung (Sessional Instructor, Centre for Teaching and Learning) and Chunyan Zhang (Lab Technician, Clinical Simulation Centre).



Dr. Anna Azulai

Their findings suggest that web-based training significantly improves student knowledge and confidence in recognizing symptoms of geriatric depression. The study contributes to the growing body of knowledge on the effectiveness of distance learning in health and allied health disciplines, the necessity of which has been increased by COVID-19.



Dr. John Valentine

The Impact of Sport on Culture

Did you know that sport can be a very powerful form of culture? What we see in sports has the power to influence our perceptions of society. Dr. John Valentine (Associate Professor, Bachelor of Physical Education Transfer) studies globalization, race and sport in Canada, and the impacts of sport on Canadian society.

His current research explores the barriers that women and people of colour face in participating in sport and ways to decrease these barriers using surveys, interviews and historical archives as his primary methodologies. His scholarship highlights that not

only do marginalized groups face barriers to accessing sport but that they also continue to face barriers once participating in sports.

"To deny or discourage access can have serious health implications," says Dr. Valentine.

His recent works include papers and book chapters on the racism that Indigenous people face in hockey, how hockey was used by French Canadians to challenge anglo-power in Quebec and how sports organized by women might challenge the dominant masculine sporting culture.

Faculty of Nursing

Climate Change, Health and Nursing

Climate change is now seen as a major health crisis; as such, Dr. Maya Kalogirou (Assistant Professor, Department of Health Systems & Sustainability) believes nurses have a professional obligation to get involved in climate action.

“Climate change is an ‘everybody’ problem; regardless of what field you are in, you will be impacted by this phenomenon either professionally or personally,” says Dr. Kalogirou. “It is important to understand how climate change impacts our health, as individuals and as a society, so that we can learn how to better weather the storm together.”

Dr. Kalogirou is conducting a joint scholarly project with Dr. Wanda Martin (University of Saskatchewan) looking at the effects of climate change on health.

The purpose of their study is to understand which climate health indicators are currently being tracked across provinces and major cities, determine which indicators are missing and needed, and gather information on surveillance systems and tools currently being used. The project is currently in the data collection phase, following a case study design and using environmental scanning. The team is also initiating a scoping review to understand the international landscape of climate health indicator surveillance and will soon move on to interviewing Canadian experts in the field. The end goal is to use this project’s research results to support the development of a cross-Canadian climate health surveillance system.

“Climate change disproportionately impacts the vulnerable,” says Dr.

Kalogirou. “To protect these populations (and Canadians generally), we must first know how climate change impacts health across the country, and to do this, we require a surveillance system.”

The team plans to build on this research, using the developed surveillance system to focus on and understand the needs of vulnerable populations – who tend to contribute least to climate change, yet they are more likely to be impacted by it – and understand their needs. The researchers’ proposed system aims to help Canada identify, understand and, ultimately, address important health inequities that exist.

Climate Health Indicators

Climate health indicators are quantitative measures that monitor how climate change impacts a population’s health. These indicators track the direct impact of climate change on illness and negative health effects, allowing us to learn how to adapt, take action and provide effective care.



Shifting the Roles of Nurses

Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and working alongside a team of researchers across Canada, Dr. Mary Asirifi (Assistant Professor, Bachelor of Science in Nursing) studies improvements of the health and wellbeing of people in Ghana who live with [Lymphatic Filariasis \(LF\)](#). Their [scholarship](#) uses focus groups, individual interviews, photovoice, body mapping and community mapping to understand the underlying causes of stigma and

isolation, evaluate culturally sensitive intervention and prevention, and create a framework to adapt the results into other contexts.

Dr. Asirifi is also working on a collaborative scholarly project at MacEwan titled, *A Comparison of Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Cases of Edmonton (Canada), Ternopil (Ukraine), and Talca (Chile)*. The project aims to inform policy regarding responses to the COVID-19

pandemic at the university level, and the findings will show institutions how best to respond to infectious pandemics. This project is currently in the data analysis phase.

Dr. Asirifi's other research interests include innovation, transformation and knowledge sharing across different sociocultural contexts in nursing education.

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Human Anatomy and Physiology

Dr. Yuwaraj (Raj) Narnaware (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Nursing) concentrates his body of research on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) in MacEwan's Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing programs with the aim of improving students' knowledge of the human body's structure and function.

His research focuses on shifting teaching from an academic, content-driven approach to a concept-based, student-centered approach that encourages student engagement and improves their long-term knowledge retention. Currently, he is testing various teaching techniques, including the use of cutting-edge educational technology

(the anatomage table), anatomical images in examinations, repeated content reinforcement, and various online and in-class activities that help improve student's social interactions and communication skills.

One of Dr. Narnaware's current projects, *Use of a Virtual Human Cadaver to Improve Knowledge of Human Anatomy in Nursing Students*, shows that the [use of a 3D virtual human cadaver in first-year nursing student classrooms](#) significantly increases the overall class average and grade point average (GPA) when compared to students who do not have access to this technology. In addition, 84 per cent of students report a positive experience using the virtual cadaver, further suggesting that this type of technology could be used in nursing education facilities that do not have access to cadaver labs to teach human anatomy and physiology.



Anatmage table

Library Services

The Oral History of Grant MacEwan Community College

Have you ever wondered about the history of MacEwan University and how it came to be? Valla McLean (University Archivist) compiled an [oral history of Grant MacEwan Community College \(1971-1999\)](#) in anticipation of MacEwan's 50th Anniversary this year.

"Oral histories provide an invaluable opportunity to learn about historical events from those present in their own words. The purpose of the Grant MacEwan Community College oral history project was to document the institution's history through the careers and lives of alumni, faculty, and staff involved in or directly affected by the activities and events during this time," says McLean.

McLean interviewed 25 participants to understand their experiences. The questions were aimed at understanding why people came to the college, what they did or studied while at the community college, what events they remember, who they remember and what it was like to work at or go to school at the community college.

The interviewees' testimonies fill gaps in the historical record and provide a more complete picture of MacEwan University's history when used with other archival records.

"I think my research is an example of how we can contribute, in my case, to an institution's history," says McLean.



Assumption Campus

Challenges in Student Evaluations of Teaching

[Student Evaluations of Teaching \(SETs\)](#) have come under fire in recent years as the balance between value and ineffectiveness is questioned. Jane Duffy (Physical Sciences Librarian) explores the pros and cons of SETs, while researching new ways to implement these evaluations to better enhance the student experience.

Duffy's research, which is partially funded by MacEwan Supplementary Faculty Development Grants, Annual Faculty Development Funds and the MacEwan Library, highlights that SETs can include preconceived ideas from students and are not necessarily accurate of a faculty's teaching abilities. However, due to increasing concerns about SETs, less significance

is placed on them. This lessens the value of student perspectives on the effectiveness of an instructor.

"My research supports the view that student voices deserve to be heard and valued: a better SET design that truly measures what it intends to measure may restore confidence in the student voice as communicated through instructor evaluation processes," says Duffy.

Her research concludes that instead of setting SETs aside completely, the design and administrative procedures attending SETs should be reformed to build a better tool which yields more reliable and valid student feedback for professors.



Jane Duffy

Office of Research Services

The Office of Research Services (ORS) supports scholarship at all stages of a project. As well as providing information on funding opportunities, we host workshops, ensure ethical standards are met, celebrate faculty and student excellence and provide resources for managing projects.

Excellence in Scholarship at MacEwan

Distinguished Research Award

The [2021 Distinguished Research Award recipient](#) is Dr. Samuel Mugo (Associate Professor, Department of Physical Sciences). His primary focus is on developing “smart” polymer nanomaterials that are integrated in small handheld devices for chemical sensing, which can be used in agriculture, food and water quality assessment, environmental monitoring and health monitoring.

“His career at MacEwan demonstrates both the importance of engaging our students in research and the quality of scholarship faculty members can achieve at an undergraduate university,” says Dr. Craig Kuziemyk (Associate Vice-President, Research, and Interim Dean, School of Business).

Board of Governors Research Chairs

The [2021 Board of Governors Research Chairs](#) are Jacqueline Baker (Associate Professor, Department of English) and Dr. Christopher Striemer (Associate Professor, Department of Psychology).

Professor Baker’s current research project is a cross-disciplinary memoir about trauma, gender and class inequity, reproductive rights and thought reform in former state-run homes for unwed mothers.

Dr. Striemer’s research program – funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and a MacEwan Strategic Research Grant – examines the human brain and the processes involved in visual attention, visual perception and visuomotor control, helping us to understand how the brain functions and how it is impacted when injured.

Student-engaged Scholarship

Student-engaged scholarship is a core value of ORS, providing students with valuable experiential learning and scholarly experiences beyond the classroom. We encourage faculty to include students in their projects and encourage undergraduate students to pursue their own endeavours, with support from Undergraduate Student Research Initiative (USRI) Dissemination and Project grants.

Student Research Day

In 2021, [Student Research Day \(SRD\)](#) was held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. Despite online activity fatigue faced by MacEwan students, SRD 2021 proved an excellent showcase of student-engaged scholarship. On April 26, 2021, **153** posters and presentations were presented by **127** students. The virtual event allowed for a larger audience to be reached than previous years’, with **527** registered attendees.



2020/2021 Fiscal Year Funding Information

External Funding

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) 2021 Funding	
NSERC Discovery Grants	\$375,000
NSERC COVID-19 Supplement	\$11,339
NSERC USRA Grants	\$42,000
Total NSERC Funding	\$428,339
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) 2021 Funding	
SSHRC SIG Grants	\$20,598
SSHRC Insight Grants	\$75,110
SSHRC Insight Development Grants	\$31,200
SSHRC Partnership Engage Grants	\$47,368
SSHRC COVID-19 Supplement Grants	\$27,184
Total SSHRC Funding	\$201,460
Mitacs	
Mitacs Business Strategy Internship	\$60,000
Mitacs Research Training Awards	\$12,000
Total Mitacs Funding	\$72,000
Alberta Children's Services	
Total	\$1,480,000
Canadian Heritage	
Total	\$69,000
CRC EDI Stipend	
Total	\$44,800
York U Making the Shift	
Total:	\$286,285
Global Affairs Faculty Mobility Program	
Total	\$7,000
Government of Alberta	
Total	\$19,090
Total 2020/2021 Fiscal Year External Funding:	\$2,652,974

2020/2021 Fiscal Year Funding Information

Internal Funding

Project Grant	
11 Awarded	
Total:	\$75,565
Strategic Research Grant	
1 Awarded	
Total	\$20,000
Community Engaged Scholarship Grant	
5 Awarded	
Total	\$22,734
Scholarly Activity Support Fund	
5 Awarded	
Total	\$24,828
Dissemination Grant	
4 Awarded	
Total	\$3,403
Distinguished Research Award	
Total	\$10,000
Board of Governors Research Chairs	
Total	\$10,000
USRI Dissemination Grant	
5 Awarded	
Total	\$2,125
USRI Project Grant	
23 Awarded	
Total	\$64,896
External Award Supplements	
Total	\$12,000
Total 2020/2021 Fiscal Year Internal Funding:	
	\$245,551

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