



CIRM Centre for Interdisciplinary
Research on Montreal
CRIM Centre de recherches interdisciplinaires
en études montréalaises



ANNUAL REPORT ABRIDGED VERSION

April 2020–2021

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



Nik Luka

Interim Director, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Montréal (CIRM)

Associate Professor, School of Urban Planning, Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture

COVID-19 took all of us by surprise—not in terms of a global pandemic thundering its way into every nook and cranny of everyday life, as epidemiologists have warned for years (if not decades) that this was bound to happen soon—but in terms of the unevenness of institutional responses. Our cherished public healthcare system has been taxed to the limits, with its frontline workers bearing the brunt of the pandemic’s effects, to say nothing of the many victims of this terrible pandemic. If anything has become clear in the last 16 months, it is the brittleness of the infrastructures that support society, and the need for reinvestment in terms of dollars and cents but also thoughtful reform and individual sacrifice for the common good. At the same time, surging questions of social justice have seen long-overdue discussions of truth and reconciliation across Canada accelerated by responses to the urgency of Black Lives Matter and similar calls to action, not to mention the burgeoning crisis of housing affordability in Montreal as in other major Canadian metropolitan regions.

Perhaps scholars will look back in a few years and tell us about how 2020-21 saw the renaissance of the comprehensive Welfare State in Québec and Canada, as cascading events tend to be cathartic in ways that are ultimately positive even with the hardships that they bring. Let us hope that the lessons learned from COVID-19 will help to build institutional and societal resilience and engage all of us in continuing to work to reduce social injustice in Montreal, across Québec, and farther afield.

The CIRM ecosystem has adjusted itself in impressive ways to the year's event, not least in how our dedicated team has responded to new challenges and opportunities. Our annual report outlines a flourishing array of activities, which has notably included a successful transition to temporarily delivering our series of public events online via Zoom, continuation of important work on the Data for Society Hub, the ramping-up of the Montreal Observatory of Social Issues, a second year of residence for our current McConnell Professor of Practice, and of course the presence of our outstanding BMO Postdoctoral Fellow. In fact, the two invited scholars have collaborated with each to create important synergies. We have expanded our team of

part-time employees to continue building our capacity, and with the successful obtention of new grants by members, the CIRM is well positioned to continue its exciting range of activities in fulfillment of our mission of developing and stimulating work in Montreal.

On a closing note, my colleague Pascal Brissette is enjoying a well-deserved sabbatical leave in 2020-21 and it has been a true pleasure to serve the CIRM as Interim Director. Given my position in the Faculty of Engineering, this has been an important way for CIRM to position itself in ways that foster cross-disciplinary dialogue, and it is expected that we will continue to build these structural links in the years to come. ❖

CIRM'S MISSION

The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Montréal (CIRM) brings together researchers from Québec and international universities whose work pertains to urban life, especially in Montréal. CIRM's mandate is twofold:

- 1. STIMULATE** emerging research in Montréal studies and unite the research being conducted within various disciplines and universities;
- 2. DEVELOP** partnerships, sets of themes, and fundamental and applied research projects on the economic, social, cultural, and governmental spheres of Montréal.

CIRM's objective is thus to contribute to a better understanding of the city through the intersection of research disciplines, and to encourage the establishment of concrete projects, which—while benefitting from the knowledge produced in universities—will affect the daily life of Montréalers. In doing so, CIRM intends to be a catalyst for knowledge on Montréal and indispensable to city development. The different disciplines represented at CIRM are history, architecture, literature, translation studies, communication studies, philosophy, law, political science, urban planning, geography, social work, and environmental studies. Research conducted at the Centre falls under one or more of the six axes presented in the following table.

CIRM's six research-action axes

AXES	DIRECTION
1. Digital culture, art, literature, and performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will Straw – Full Professor, Department of Art History and Communication Studies (McGill University)
2. Language, belonging, and plurilingualism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wim Remysen – Associate Professor, Department of Literature and Communication Studies (Université de Sherbrooke) ▪ Gillian Lane-Mercier – Full Professor, Department of French-Language Literatures, Translation and Creation (McGill University)
3. Economy, social innovation, and social transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Richard Shearmur – Professor and Director, School of Urban Planning (McGill University)
4. Mobility, urban planning, and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Juan Torres – Full Professor, School of Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture; Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Urban Planning (Université de Montréal)
5. Governance, institutions, and citizen participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hoi Kong – Full Professor, Peter A. Allard School of Law (University of British Columbia) ▪ Kevin Manaugh – Associate Professor, Department of Geography and School of Environment (McGill University)
6. Immigration, living conditions, and religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Frédéric Dejean – Professor, Department of Religious Studies (UQAM) ▪ Annick Germain – Full Professor, Centre Urbanisation, Culture et Société (Institut national de la recherche scientifique)

CIRM IN NUMBERS



73 members



+ 25 disciplines



15 universities
and organizations



6 research-action axes



1 McConnell Professor of Practice



1 BMO Postdoctoral Fellow



6 resident scholars

- ❖ Steven Lapidus, Concordia University
- ❖ Marie Leconte, Université de Montréal
- ❖ Mary Anne Poutanen, McGill University
- ❖ Paul-Etienne Rainville, UQTR
- ❖ Brant Moscovitch, Ph.D Oxford
- ❖ Alexandre Maltais, INRS



2 visiting fellows

- ❖ Anna Giaufret, Université de Gênes
- ❖ Fabio Scetti, Université Paris-Descartes



17 employees including...

1 Project Manager

12 Research Assistants

* For a complete list of our teams and committees, please refer to Appendice 2.

EVENTS

The events organized by CIRM and its members constitute CIRM's most visible work. This work is also deployed in other directions. Training and induction of emerging researchers into the workplace and the research community are very important aspects of CIRM's mission, too.

Furthermore, in 2020–2021, CIRM mentored its BMO postdoctoral fellow¹, offered them support in carrying out their research and field projects, and ensured that they could benefit from its network of local partners. CIRM has also supported several of its junior members in obtaining positions in academia and in the private and public sectors.

Most notably, the health crisis served as an opportunity to reinvent the usual format of the centre's events—from on-site to online—and to put together two brand new series, one in response to current concerns (*Rethinking the city in Times of Pandemic*) and one for the specific needs of our partners (*The F-MR Lab*).

¹ For a detailed portrait of the BMO fellow, please refer to page 24 of this document.

Over the past year, CIRM has planned, organized, and participated in a total of **14 public events**, three of which were initially scheduled for the end of the 2019–20 academic year and had to be rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The figures below provide additional details on our event programming. Approximately **600 people** took part in events organized by CIRM this year.



5 Workshops

Five workshops devoted to the development of the Data for Society Hub (DSH).



9 Seminars

An opportunity for researchers, municipal representatives, and for the community at large to meet and discuss the latest publications dealing with Montreal and various urban issues.



2 F-MR Lab Roundtables

A series of roundtables presented in partnership with MR-63 to explore the issues and questions encountered during the creation and management of a future venue for art, design, and gastronomy in Montreal. Two more discussions are scheduled for May and June 2021.



4 Montréal as seen by...

A series of meetings where public figures with a passion for Montreal share their impressions of the city with students and citizens alike.



5 Rethinking the City in Times of Pandemic Webinars

A series of webinars that explore the past and the present to reflect on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Montreal, its institutions, and its citizens. The final event happened this May.



3 Conferences-Experiences

Coordinated in partnership with community organizations from a variety of neighbourhoods, these on-site meetings, which explore environmental and economic issues related to the Saint-Laurent River, as well as access to its shores, were postponed until June 2021 due to COVID-19 health guidelines.

PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to the work it does for its members, CIRM also nurtures relationships with many local (non-academic) partners by means of concrete collaborative actions and projects, as demonstrated by the following data.

+ 170 meetings

with community, municipal, private, and university partners

+ 90 partners

involved in our activities and research this year, including the City of Montréal, Maison de l'innovation sociale, Montreal Urban Innovation Lab, Société d'habitation et de développement de Montréal, Chez Doris, Centre des mémoires montréalaises, Montréal Comic Arts Festival, Société d'animation de la Promenade Bellerive, and MR-63.

7 letters

of support provided to our partners to help them obtain funding (Chez Doris, Savoir Média/Eurêka! Productions, Montreal Comic Arts Festival, Société d'animation de la Promenade Bellerive, Art souterrain, Mtl Drag)

Our **2020–2021 map of partnerships** includes a list of local organisations and collaborators with which CIRM works on projects. This dimension is central to CIRM’s mission.



To view a larger version of the 2020–2021 map of CIRM’s activities and partnerships, please visit our [website](#).

COMMUNICATIONS

Since 2018, CIRM has been taking advantage of social media platforms to interact with and inform citizens and researchers. As envisioned in last year's report, the establishment of a dedicated communications team has made it possible to increase the Centre's outreach over the 2020–21 period. The following statistics, from March 31, 2021, demonstrate the results of this communications strategy.

<p style="text-align: center;">Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 16 612 visits (↑ 28 %) ❖ 13 749 users (↑ 16 %) ❖ 37 376 page views 	<p style="text-align: center;">Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 2 029 subscribers (↑ 39 %)
<p style="text-align: center;">Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 583 subscribers (↑ 21 %) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Social Media and Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 1 073 publications (↑ 244 %)

Website Over the past year, CIRM's communications team has brought significant changes to the structure, content, and visuals of the Centre's website to optimize the user experience, increase the website's accessibility, and better organize information related to CIRM. More specifically, a large number of web pages regarding the Centre's members, projects, events, research-related activities, and resources have been created or updated to reflect the flourishing of our collaborations.

NEW INITIATIVES

5 Digital Notebooks

CIRM's [Digital Notebooks](#) are interactive knowledge mobilization tools that are intended for the general public, as well as for researchers and practitioners. Their aim is to ensure the continuity of past events organized by CIRM through short articles, photos, and videos, in addition to providing summaries for these events and presenting their panelists. In total, these notebooks have been consulted 1,525 times and have generated 3,818 different impressions.

11 Reading Commentaries

CIRM's online [reading corner](#) presents a list of readings with commentaries written by axis directors, researchers, fellows, professors of practice, and employees. The reading corner is meant to encourage CIRM's community to deepen its knowledge of urban studies or, simply, to immerse itself in the spirit of Montreal.

8 Blog Posts

The [Urbanologist](#) is the bilingual collective blog of CIRM and its members. It is intended to provide a space for discussion on the various aspects of urban life in Montreal and elsewhere. Researchers, fellows, and practicing professors are invited to write 500-to-1,000-word posts to share the progression of their work and reflections. These blog posts have been read 455 times and have generated 1,124 impressions.

11 Video Recordings

The [multimedia](#) section of CIRM's website acts as a repository for events that have been recorded in audio or video format, including virtual events. The aim is to keep an archive of CIRM's various activities and to disseminate the knowledge and ideas that were shared during these events to a wider audience over a longer period of time.

DEVELOP— CURRENT PROJECTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS



BUILDING THE MONTREAL COMMUNITY: INDIENTITES IN MOTION

In 2018, CIRM and the Centre d'histoire de Montréal developed a project on the notions of “narratives” and “identities.” An initial research team made up of three historians was formed in June 2018 with the mandate of using different sources and corpuses to identify landmarks and key elements that, over time, have made up Montreal’s identity. The exploratory research process of this project was in line with the strategic priorities of the two institutions involved.

The Centre d'histoire de Montréal has decided to convert, in the fall of 2021, into the Centre des mémoires montréalaises (MEM). CIRM’s great interest in community identity issues is reflected by this change. A team of researchers brought together by CIRM has reflected on the best possible ways to synthesize the knowledge accumulated by historians, sociologists, political scientists, and literary scholars in association with the MEM. Their mandate was to give this knowledge a form that would lead to both a publication for the general public and original museum programming. In this case, the synthesis takes on the form of “interpretation keys”, which provide access to the multiple narratives and identities of Montreal’s population.

The book that will emerge from this collaborative project, under the responsibility of historian and CIRM member Dr. Paul-Étienne Rainville, will be published in fall 2021, at the inauguration of the MEM. It will be published in English and French, and will act as the inaugural publication of this new Montreal institution. For CIRM, this will represent an opportunity to highlight the bicentennial of McGill University and its long and rich contribution to a better understanding of Montreal and Québec.

POLICY ON CHILDREN

Approved on October 22, 2019 by Montreal's City Council, the research project *Naître, grandir, s'épanouir à Montréal* has led to the formation of an advisory council and research team around the public policy entitled Policy on Children. The research team's task is to develop, around each of the five axes of the Policy on Children, a participatory research project with the City of Montréal's Service de la diversité et de l'inclusion sociale. The global research question guiding the project concerns the role that the municipal administration should play in meeting children's needs in terms of safety, food, leisure, culture, and education.

As explained by Professor Juan Torres, one of the team's researchers and the head of Safety and Accessibility in the Urban Environment axis: "The goal of the interdisciplinary team involved in this approach is not to conduct studies on the Policy on Children, or on its implementation, but rather to generate, with partners in the municipal milieu, a space to reflect on how a municipality like Montreal can be more effective, or even innovative, in its public policies and, more specifically, in its support for children. This approach constitutes a very promising precedent for considering city-university partnerships as perennial and structuring relationships, valuing different types of knowledge (academic, professional, citizen) and stimulating the production of knowledge."

²Axis 1 : Safety and accessibility of urban environments; Axis 2 : Healthy eating and food safety; Axis 3 : Academic perseverance and success; Axis 4 : Access to culture, sports and recreation; Axis 5 : Families and communities.

COORDINATION THE DATA FOR SOCIETY HUB

In May 2019, the Montreal Urban Innovation Lab (MUIL) won the first prize (\$50M) in the Canada Smart Cities Challenge for the City of Montréal. Citizen participation, judicious use of data, and collaboration between stakeholders were at the very heart of the approach that MUIL and its partners proposed. Through such an approach, the hope is to develop and experiment with innovative technological solutions that can address two grand issues: access to high-quality food for the most vulnerable citizens and the development of active transportation.

Nearly a year later, the Montreal division of this important national competition, now called Montreal in Common, involves 14 collaborators, including CIRM, that share the goal of improving the quality of citizens' lives. Charged with coordinating the Data for Society Hub (DSH), CIRM's mandate is to establish a data partnership that is reinforced by a technological infrastructure that supports sharing, grouping, and analysis of datasets. This is meant to offer better insight on Montrealers and their environment. The coordination of this project represents an opportunity for CIRM to promote the research conducted by its team, members, and scientific collaborators. This project will also allow for the development of data usage literacy among organizations and citizens, namely thanks to the sharing of methodologies, technologies, and educational resources. Finally, the endorsement of such a project and of its outcomes will contribute to enriching local, national, and international discussions concerning the use of data for the common good.

In 2020, with the help of its partners at the DSH—Centraide du Grand Montréal, Direction régionale de la santé publique de Montréal, and Service de la diversité et de l'inclusion sociale de la Ville de Montréal—CIRM organized a series of workshops in order to identify exemplary practices in terms of data management, governance, and sharing, and to recommend a safe, open, and intuitive technological infrastructure for users. In 2021, CIRM will continue to work on this project.

LOGER ET VERDIR – TACKLING WOMEN'S HOMELESSNESS

Among the many social issues that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, homelessness and access to affordable housing particularly stand out and have manifested in unfortunate ways. More specifically, Montreal has experienced the emergence of the Notre-Dame encampment and an amplified need for community stakeholders to advocate for and protect residents affected by the curfew and a general lack of resources.

Together with its partners Chez Doris and the Société d'habitation et de développement de Montréal (SHDM), CIRM wanted to provide stimulating and innovative solutions to address the current housing crisis. As a result, SHDM is currently building an apartment block intended for women at risk of homelessness in the east end of Montreal, which features 26 single-occupancy studios, including four adapted housing units. This new building will include communal spaces, as well as a green courtyard, and will be managed by the charitable organization Chez Doris to ensure adequate follow-ups with its occupants.

In consultation with the SHDM and Chez Doris, CIRM has developed two research-action initiatives that will have a concrete impact on this housing project and, more specifically, its operations and development. They will solicit the commitment of about fifteen students and four professors from two different universities over a period of just over two years. The first project, which will soon be complete and has been led by professors and students in social work, is meant to identify the best management practices for the building's living environment and to determine the selection criteria for its future residents. It also aims to establish internal regulations that promote both fair and inclusive access to housing and reflect the cultural, sexual, and social diversity of the women at risk of homelessness in Montreal.

The second project, which is slated for 2021-22, aims to co-create and co-design the green courtyard of the building. Students, professors, and residents will collaborate in the construction of this urban garden in order to create a space that meets the specific needs of its users, embodies the principles of sustainable development, and integrates meaningful therapeutic elements (native plants, furniture layout, etc.) while being mindful of its neighbourhood.

SHAKING THE FOUNDATIONS : MCAF'S ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

How are Montreal and cities in general depicted in comics? Shortly after attending CIRM's seminar on the graphic novel *La femme aux cartes postales* and Montreal's jazz nights in the 1950s and 1960s, the Montreal Comic Arts Festival (MCAF) partnered with CIRM to organize the international conference *Shaking the Foundations*, which will be held October 28 to 30, 2021. In addition to marking the 10th anniversary of the MCAF, the conference will bring together artists and researchers interested in the comic arts through field activities, research papers, and discussions on the (de)construction of urban representations, urban communities, and comics themselves.

The call for papers for the first edition of this international conference was a success. The scientific committee has received more than 30 proposals from researchers across the globe.

Besides stimulating research on Montreal and urban representations, particularly through the publication of conference proceedings, Shaking the Foundations will host many innovative knowledge mobilization activities. These include an evening where researchers and comic artists will be paired to produce fanzines, resulting in illustrated and accessible syntheses of some of CIRM's members' research. These fanzines will be exhibited at the 11th edition of the Montréal Comic Arts Festival in May 2022.

VIVRE TOUS ENSEMBLE : A SERIES ON MONTREAL COMMUNITIES

In February 2021, Savoir Média and Eureka! Productions launched *Vivre tous ensemble*, a series of 12 short videos that retrace the journey of Montrealers belonging to various cultural communities found in the city. This web series was inspired by the concept of guided itineraries, which was presented to Savoir Média by the CIRM in December 2020 and is meant to encourage the exploration of others' perspectives. Guided itineraries formed a part of the work that was undertaken in 2016 by the CIRM, which notably led to the publication of the collective *Vivre ensemble à Montréal: épreuves et convivialités* (Atelier 10). An excursion into the heart of the immigrant experience as told by young people from different communities, the videos explore personal and identity-related quests driven by the tensions between the attachment to the mother land and the desire to fit in with a new culture. Furthermore, they present the perspectives of university researchers whose projects focus on the Montreal communities that are featured.

Given the success of its first season, Eureka! Productions, with the support of Savoir Média and CIRM, submitted a proposal to the Bell Fund to produce a second season of *Vivre tous ensemble*.

**STIMULATE—
BMO FELLOWSHIP**





Jess Reia

2020-2021 BMO
Postdoctoral Fellow

The BMO postdoctoral fellow Dr. Jess Reia is currently appointed as the Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Art History and Communication Studies at McGill University. As the CIRM-BMO Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Reia is currently developing the research-action project, *Smartness after Dark: Understanding Nightlife Governance and Urban Intelligence in Montreal*.

The proposed research project is a study on the place of nightlife policy in relation to different urban governance mechanisms in Montreal, keeping in mind the consolidation of a smart cities agenda in the city and the current and upcoming challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. In their research-action project, Dr. Reia analyzes three aspects of data governance in relation to nightlife: where and how the lack of consistent data affects the work of stakeholders, how data practices can benefit or harm communities, and the perceptions on data governance in Montreal.

The research-action project will produce the first comprehensive account on the place of nightlife governance and its relation to urban intelligence and data governance in Montreal. This account will analyze the ways in which a variety of actors, inside and outside of the municipal government, may or may not be dealing with the challenges posed by a framework of smartness after dark in the context of a pandemic.

Dr. Reia is also involved in advocacy and policy-related activities in Montreal and is a member of the first Night Council created in 2020 by MTL 24/24. They have notably contributed to the new *Politique de la vie nocturne de Montréal* (Service du développement économique, Ville de Montréal). See Appendix 1 for a list of her achievements.

McCONNELL PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE PROGRAM





Ana Brandusescu
2019-2021 McConnell
Foundation Professor
of Practice

Ana Brandusescu's expertise lies in civic technology, open data, and digital rights. She brings to Montreal and to CIRM an international outlook on the economic, political, and social dimensions of emerging technology in the city.

As McConnell Professor of Practice for CIRM, Ana Brandusescu carried out a research study on the governance of artificial intelligence (AI). This exploratory research begins to examine public investment flows in AI through the AI ecosystem, policy, and funding in Montréal and across Canada to better understand its socio-economic implications.

In December 2019, she wrote [an initial blog post](#) on “responsible AI”, a response to technology that is opaque to many of its users, driven by private sector interest. In March 2021 she launched the report titled, [*Artificial intelligence policy and funding in Canada: Public investments, private interests.*](#)

For a more detailed account of her various research projects and collaborations, please visit [her dedicated page](#) on CIRM's website. In addition, her first report on the public sector funding of AI can be found in Appendix 3 of this document.

APPENDIX 1 — JESS REIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS



BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- Reia, J. (to be published). *Governing the Ephemeral: Street Music and the Contested Realms of Public Space*. Intellect Books.
- Straw, W. & Reia, J. (to be published). Nightlife in a Pandemic. Dans J.-L. Denis, C. Régis, D. Weinstock & C. Champagne, *Pandemic Societies*. McGill-Queen's University Press.
- Catherall, R., Reia, J. & Straw, W. (2021). Nighttime Governance in Times of COVID-19: Capacity-Building for Night Mayors and Other Nighttime Governance Institutions. Dans Vibelab, [*Global Nighttime Recovery Plan*](#).
- Reia, J. & Fergus Cruz, L. (2021). Seeing Through the Smart City Narrative: Data Governance, Power Relations, and Regulatory Challenges in Brazil. Dans B. Haggart, N. Tusikov & J. A. Scholte, [*Contested Power and Authority in Internet Governance: Return of the State?*](#) Routledge.

REPORTS AND BLOG POSTS

- Reia, J. (to be published). *Data Governance for the 24-Hour City*. BMO-CRIEM.
- Reia, J. & Rouleau, J. (2021). *Rapport sur les consultations citoyennes pour la nouvelle politique de la vie nocturne à Montréal*. MTL 24/24. Presented to Deborah Delaunay, Commissaire au bruit et à la nuit – Service du développement économique, City of Montréal.
- Reia, J. & Brandusescu, A. (2021). [Un point de départ : questions transversales et recommandations pour la Charte des données numériques de Montréal](#). *L'Urbanologue/The Urbanologist*, CIRM.
- Reia, J. & Brandusescu, A. (2021). [A Starting Point: Transversal Questions and Recommendations for Montreal's Digital Data Charter](#). *L'Urbanologue/The Urbanologist*, CIRM.
- Bélanger, A., Reia, J. & Straw, W. (2020). *Portrait diagnostique de la vie nocturne à Montréal*. MTL 24/24. Presented to Déborah Delaunay, commissaire au bruit et à la nuit – Service du développement économique, City of Montréal.

DIRECTION OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

- Barber-Kersovan, A., Reia, J. & Kuchar, R. (to be published). *Urban Music Studies : Theories and Methods*. Intellect Books.

ARTICLES IN PREPARATION

- Reia, J. The Gendered Politics of the Right to the City. *New Media & Society*.
- Reia, J. & Fergus Cruz, L. Connecting Everything: Datafication, Rebranding and Regulation in the Emergence of Smart City Markets. *Science, Technology & Human Values*.
- Reia, J. Étoiles, activistes ou transgresseurs? L'art de la rue comme objet de gouvernance urbaine et de politiques culturelles. *IdeAs, Idées d'Amériques*.

COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP PARTICIPATION

- 2020-2021 – Committee member “Art de vivre (de nuit)” – Conseil de nuit, MTL 24/24
- 2020-2021 – Member of the working group “Espaces et mobilités Nocturnes” – Politique de la vie nocturne, Service du développement économique, City of Montréal
- 2020-2021 – Responsible of the working group “Smartness, Data and the Night” – Réseau international des études sur la nuit

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

- 2020-2021 – “Estudios sobre la noche/Night Studies/Études sur la nuit,” series of virtual seminars coorganized by CISAN-UNAM (Mexico), CIRM (Canada) and Institut de géoarchitecture & IDA-Brest (France)
- April 2021 – “Nouvel éclairage sur les nuits urbaines” (*Repenser la ville en temps de pandémie*, n° 4), CIRM webinar
- March 2021 – *Artificial Intelligence Policy and Funding in Canada*, CIRM seminar
- June 2021 – *Nightlife Governance and the Politics of Smartness in Montreal*, paper presented during the Canadian Communication Association's annual colloquium.

APPENDIX 2— WORKING TEAM AND COMMITTEES



WORKING TEAM	
Nik Luka	Interim Director
Stéphan Gervais	Scientific Coordinator
Audray Fontaine	Knowledge Mobilization Coordinator
Elissa Kayal	Administrative Assistant and McConnell Foundation Professor of Practice Program Coordinator
Karolyne Arseneault	Project Manager and Coordinator of the Data for Society Hub
Ana Brandusescu	McConnell Professor of Practice
Otilia Scott	Community Manager
Julie Levasseur	Community Manager and Research Assistant for the Data for Society Hub
Camille Delagrave-Ajduk	Communication Assistant
Ophélie Proulx-Giraldeau	Events Manager
Karolina Roman	Editorial Assistant

BOARD MEMBERS	
Mary Hunter	Dean of the Faculty of Arts at McGill University and Chair of the Board
Leigh Yetter	Office of the Provost Representative
Nancy Ross	Associate Vice-Principal Research and Innovation
Michèle Dagenais	CIRM Regular Member
Anouk Bélanger	CIRM Regular Member
Lysandre Champagne	Student Member
Violaine Desrosiers	External Member

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	
Will Straw	Digital culture, art, literature, and performance
Wim Remysen Gillian Lane-Mercier	Language, belonging and plurilingualism
Richard Shearmur	Economy, social innovation, and social transformations
Juan Torres	Mobility, urban planning, and environment
Hoi Kong Kevin Manaugh	Governance, institutions, and citizen participation
Frédéric Dejean Annick Germain	Immigration, living conditions, and religion

**APPENDIX 3—
RESEARCH SUMMARY
BY ANA BRANDUSESCU**



Summary of the Report *Artificial Intelligence Policy and Funding in Canada*

AI technologies are becoming more prominent in our everyday lives, bringing with them long-lasting political and socio-economic implications. The development and use of AI are supported both privately and publicly. Governments support AI because it promises economic growth, military advantage, and streamlining labour functions through automation. The Canadian government is investing heavily in AI, with billions of dollars in funding committed. As of August 2020, \$1 billion in government contributions have been awarded across Canada. An additional \$1.2 billion of planned government investments have been publicly announced for the province of Quebec. In Montreal alone, over \$2 billion in private investments have been reported.

Power lies in funding and investment networks, yet public access to these networks is notoriously difficult. This exploratory research begins to examine public investment flows in AI. Access to financial flows is a gateway to understanding decisions made behind closed doors. Billions of taxpayers' money go into AI. *How is the Canadian government building the innovation economy under AI?* To answer this question, public documents and datasets were analyzed, complemented by semi-structured research interviews, and participation at public events and meetings. From March to June 2020, Ana Brandusescu conducted 53 research interviews with experts based in Canada. Interviewees included government officials, industry researchers and analysts, legal practitioners, non-profit practitioners, human rights advocates, and academics working in, or adjacent to the AI landscape. The report seeks to inform policymakers, researchers, and civil society representatives.

The report examines the AI ecosystem in Canada; AI policy and funding; as well as AI in Quebec and Montréal. Because so much of AI resides in the private realm, it is worth questioning how the innovation economy is influenced by private interests and private power — and by extension, how AI public policy gets written. The research reveals the following findings:

- **Public investments in AI technologies primarily benefit the private sector**, where government funding for AI goes mainly to industry and academia adjacent to industry.
- **Even though Canada has a federal AI policy, there is no government AI strategy** for government departments and agencies across federal, provincial, or municipal levels.
- **Companies linked to human rights abuses can pre-qualify as government AI suppliers** and commit to Canada's Algorithmic Impact Assessment.
- **Concentrations of power provide advantages to a handful of entities** with financial resources, data, and technologies across a few universities and affiliated research nonprofits, startups, and international (big) tech companies.



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