

TRaCE

Track, Report, Connect, Exchange

The TRaCE project is a collaboration of twenty-four Canadian universities, the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS), the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO), and the Jackman Humanities Institute at the University of Toronto. It is headquartered at the Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas (IPLAI) at McGill University. The one-year project (2015-2016) is funded by SSHRC, the participating universities, and the partner organizations.

The purpose of the project is four-fold: (1) to **track** PhDs who have graduated in the humanities; (2) to **report** on where they are, whether inside or outside the academy, and on what they have achieved; (3) to **connect** them with each other and with faculty and students inside the academy; and (4) to sponsor **exchanges** of knowledge and knowhow among PhD students, faculty members, other academic PhDs, and PhDs pursuing careers in non-academic sectors.

It is important to note that many humanities PhDs are not members of the academic faculty but are nevertheless developing valuable careers in the academy as administrators, researchers, and policy and program advisors.

TRaCE will enable exchanges among humanities researchers inside and outside the academy in ways that will benefit faculty members, other academic PhDs, PhDs in non-academic careers, and doctoral students, and in ways that will reorient the culture of the university toward a more dynamic relationship with the world outside the academy. The benefits of these exchanges will flow both ways—from doctoral-level teaching and research into many sectors of non-academic work and action and from knowledge and knowhow in business, media, the professions, and public and political work into humanities departments and programs.

The project will track ten cohorts of PhD graduates (2004-2014) in at least two departments or programs in the participating universities. The universities will report the results of the tracking exercise on their websites, engage with the PhDs in order to connect them with each other and with students and faculty, and invite back PhDs to take part in graduate programs in a number of possible ways, including lecturing or leading seminars with students and/or faculty, mentoring students, co-teaching (for short stints), contributing to research supervision, advising about program reform, etc.

Since PhDs are highly mobile individuals, it is understood that not all PhDs invited back to the academy will have their PhDs from the university to which they are invited. Important also is the reciprocal nature of the relationships the project has been designed to create: PhDs outside the academy will have opportunities to collaborate with students and faculty on public humanities projects such as festivals, street fairs, art and artifact exhibitions, public discussions of matters of public concern, etc., and to call on the knowledge, creativity, and energy of students and faculty.

To facilitate exchanges of knowledge and knowhow among humanities PhDs inside and outside the academy, to serve as the gathering place of a new, public-facing humanities community, and to make the new community visible to itself and others so as to enable individual and collective action, the project is working with web design specialists Good Lookin' Kids <http://www.goodlookinkids.com/> to create the TRaCE web portal. The bilingual portal will have space for up to 100,000 registered users, networking and groupworking features, and a data-in / data-out capacity that will gather information

from users and provide valuable information back to them, making it possible for users to see the whole range of career pathways that lead from the PhD, to learn from others how it is possible to get from point A, not merely to point B but rather to points B through Z, and to network with other PhDs across the spectrum of career and life directions.

TRaCE is an experimental pilot project. It will not yield a thorough-going or complete data-based account of humanities PhD outcomes in Canada. It will develop and test a new design and methodology for data gathering and knowledge creation about the humanities PhD that will be actively interrelated with community building among humanities PhDs and PhD students.

Participating Universities

- Carleton University
- Concordia University
- Dalhousie University
- Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)
- McGill University
- McMaster University
- Memorial University
- Queen's University
- Ryerson University
- Simon Fraser University
- Université de Montréal
- Université Laval
- University of Alberta
- University of British Columbia
- University of Calgary
- University of Guelph
- University of Ottawa (pending)
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of Toronto
- University of Waterloo
- University of Western Ontario
- University of Windsor
- Wilfrid Laurier University (pending)
- York University

Partner Organizations

- Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (CAGS)
- Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences
- Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO)
- Jackman Institute for the Humanities, University of Toronto

Research Core Group

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Project Leadership

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