




Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Stress, Resilience, and Mental Health

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Position Description:

The Department of Psychology at McGill University is seeking applicants to be nominated for a [Canada Excellence Research Chair](#) (CERC) in *Stress, Resilience, and Mental Health*. The CERC program supports Canadian universities in their efforts to build on Canada's growing reputation as a global leader in research and innovation. The program supports world-renowned researchers and their teams to establish ambitious research programs at Canadian universities. These awards are among the most prestigious and generous available globally (<https://www.cerc.gc.ca/program-programme/cpan-pccs-eng.aspx>).

The focus of the CERC on *Stress, Resilience, and Mental Health* recognizes that exposure to stressful life events is a key risk factor for a wide range of mental health problems, including the development and progression of major depression, anxiety, psychosis, substance use disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and burnout. Almost two million Canadians report experiencing “very high” levels of stress on a daily basis, and the World Health Organization predicts that worldwide illnesses that are directly or indirectly related to stress exposure will be the second leading cause of disease over the next two decades. It is also recognized

that there is a disproportionate burden of mental health adversity on individuals and communities who face social and economic precariousness. Overall, these estimates will only increase as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a global stressor that has already resulted in an increase in multiple forms of mental illness. In addition to the immense burden of suffering, these forms of mental illness are an enormous economic liability, costing billions of dollars annually in healthcare and diminished productivity.

The CERC nominee will hold a PhD or equivalent degree and will be an internationally recognized research leader in the topics of stress, resilience, and mental health. They must currently be a Full Professor or an Associate Professor expected to be promoted to Full Professor within one or two years of the nomination. They will lead a multidisciplinary team working toward a) identification societal and individual precursors to mental illness, b) reduction of the incidence and prevalence of major psychiatric disorders, c) shortening treatment times for those who develop them, and d) better treatment outcomes for more people. Montreal is arguably the birthplace of modern stress research and the home to multiple world-renowned universities, institutes, and hospitals, and a hotbed of cutting-edge work on the topic. The CERC nominee will become integrated into this vibrant environment and develop a leadership role in research, infrastructure-building, and knowledge translation regarding stress and mental health.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) is a foundational principle in the CERC program. To achieve its research excellence-based objectives and outcomes, the program requires the participation and contributions of students, trainees and researchers from underrepresented groups. These groups include, but are not limited to, racialized minorities, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, women, and individuals from LGBTQ2+ communities. A key mission of this CERC will be to ensure this research occurs in the context of attention to EDI principles in the research topics it addresses, the populations it studies, and the team surrounding the chairholder. The CERC nominee will thus be expected to possess the skills needed to recruit, teach, and mentor a diverse group of researchers and trainees, reflecting McGill's commitments to equity and diversity as set out in core institutional documents including [McGill's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion \(EDI\) Strategic Plan](#), the [Taskforce on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education](#), and the [Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism](#).

We welcome and encourage applications from talented scholars who are members of racialized/visible minorities, ethnic minorities, women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and persons of minority sexual orientations and gender identities, as well as from all qualified candidates with the knowledge and skills to engage productively with diverse communities.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. CERC guidelines state that researchers who are currently at another Canadian institution are eligible as candidates but there must be a demonstrable net benefit to the country in moving the researcher from one Canadian institution to another.

Enquiries from potential applicants are welcome and will be treated in strict confidence. Enquiries can be directed to Blaine Ditto, Chair of the Department of Psychology, at blaine.ditto@mcgill.ca.

Applications must be submitted on-line on Work Day. Use a personal email address when creating an account in Workday. Do not use @mail.mcgill.ca or @mcgill.ca email accounts to apply. Applications should include (i) a cover letter describing their research program and teaching interests, (ii) a *curriculum vitae*, and (3) names and contact information of three references.

Applications will begin to be examined after 30 days of this publication date (March 25, 2022).

McGill University is committed to equity and diversity within its community and values academic rigour and excellence. We welcome and encourage applications from racialized persons/visible minorities, women, Indigenous persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and persons of minority sexual orientations and gender identities, as well as from all qualified candidates with the skills and knowledge to engage productively with diverse communities.

At McGill, research that reflects diverse intellectual traditions, methodologies, and modes of dissemination and translation is valued and encouraged. Candidates are invited to demonstrate their research impact both within and across academic disciplines and in other sectors, such as government, communities, or industry.

McGill further recognizes and fairly considers the impact of leaves (e.g., family care or health-related) that may contribute to career interruptions or slowdowns. Candidates are encouraged to signal any leave that affected productivity, or that may have had an effect on their career path. This information will be considered to ensure the equitable assessment of the candidate's record.

McGill implements an employment equity program and encourages members of designated equity groups to self-identify. It further seeks to ensure the equitable treatment and full inclusion of persons with disabilities by striving for the implementation of universal design principles transversally, across all facets of the University community, and through [accommodation policies and procedures](#). Persons with disabilities who anticipate needing accommodations for any part of the application process may contact, in confidence, accessibilityrequest.hr@mcgill.ca.

About Us



Located in one of the world's great multicultural and multilingual cities, McGill University is internationally recognized for its excellence as a leading institution of higher education and research. For nearly 200 years, through the work of dedicated people, McGill has been breaking ground in diverse fields and contributing solutions to some of the world's most significant issues. McGillians are proud to be part of a community that is both global and local. Inspired by challenge and

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