

# Annual Report: January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

## School of Information Studies

### Highlights

#### 1. Research and Publications

##### New grants and contracts

Almost every one of our faculty members holds a continuing grant, was awarded a new grant or both. In 2015, 18 new grants and research contracts were awarded to SIS faculty. The full list appears at: <https://www.mcgill.ca/sis/research/new-grants-and-contracts>.

The total grants and contracts have a value exceeding \$4m, which represents a combination of individual and group grants. Prof. Beheshti and Prof. Shaheen (PI, Education) had their SSHRC Partnership Grant Letter of Intent accepted for their project examining the role of news, media, culture and the legal system on reducing rape culture in universities. Prof. Bouthillier together with Prof. Pluye (PI, Family Medicine) was awarded a Quebec SUPPORT Unit CIHR-FRQS-MSSS Infrastructure grant to study how to better respond to the needs of healthcare system “clients” (patients, clinicians and managers). Prof. Fung, the CRC Chair in Data Mining for Cybersecurity, received 7 grants and contracts to conduct research on such topics as cyber-crime detection, preserving privacy in querying personal health records on the cloud and developing a secure cyber-structure for a smart city. Prof. Guastavino, William Dawson Scholar, was awarded 6 grants to develop study such phenomena as virtual acoustic models to enhance user experience with software musical instruments, the effect of ambient sound on dining experience, and listening to the physics of earthquakes. Prof. Moffatt received an NSERC Engage grant for her project on Persuasive Game-based physical therapy and an AGE-WELL grant to study digital storytelling to facilitate older adults communicating and socializing.

Most research is highly collaborative, even within our School, and with others McGill academic units such as Music, Family Medicine, Education, and the School of Architecture/School of Urban Planning. Others are working with Canadian universities such as the universities of Calgary, British Columbia, Waterloo, Ryerson and, closer to home, Concordia, Université de Montréal, Sherbrooke and ETS. On the international level, research projects are underway with Columbia University, Purdue, the University of Maryland, Zayed University (United Arab Emirates), Hong Kong Baptist University, IRCAM and CNRS in France, the University of Pompeu Fabra in Spain, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in South Africa and Zeijiang GongShang University in China. A number of companies are also participating in research projects such as law firms and software firms.

## Publications

11 SIS professors published one book, five book chapters, 23 journal articles, 24 conference proceedings as well as conference posters, panel sessions and encyclopaedia entries. A complete list of 2015 publications may be found at: <https://www.mcgill.ca/sis/research/facultypublications>.

SIS faculty contributed a combination of single-authored and co-authored books chapters, journal articles and conference proceedings papers. Collaboration was both within our School and with the wider research community. The book *Utilizing Evidence-Based Lessons Learned for Organizational Innovation and Change* was co-edited by Prof. Dalkir and Irene Kitimbo (SIS PhD candidate). Both also contributed chapters to the book. Prof. Menard co-edited a Special Double Issue of the *Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science* with Fidelia SanJuan on the participatory web. Prof. Dalkir edited a special issue of *Education for Information* on the topic of Knowledge Management Education.

## 2. Teaching and Learning

Our Master's program offered a new research-oriented option last year and this year students were able to select this at the time of application. Our first cohort of research project option students completed their Master's program and we had increased applications for fall 2016. Our three graduate certificate programs (Graduate Certificate in Digital Archives Management, Information and Knowledge Management and Information Architecture) were launched and we had our first new students enrolled. Some will make use of these as professional development opportunities while others may elect to switch into our Master's program upon completion. We introduced five new courses in our MIST program: one is a required course to help transition to the workplace (GLIS 602, Integrating Theory and Practice) and the others are elective courses in Information and Cognition, Music Information Retrieval, Information Architecture and Skills for Professionals.

The SIS Research Seminar series invited a number of speakers during the year, including Visiting Professor Victoria Slonosky who presented the DRAW project (Data Rescue: Archives and Weather). She is working with Prof Park and Gordon Burr (Senior Archivist, McGill and SIS sessional lecturer) to digitize meteorological data held in the McGill Meteorological Observatory to make this vast store of information available for research and public use. In response to student interest, we also organized a workshop on copyright issues that was given by Alexandra Kohn, Head, Office of Copyright Compliance, Digital Initiatives at the McGill University Library which was well attended by both students and faculty. We plan on using such workshops to complement the topics that are addressed in our core curriculum.

Students organized the annual InfoNexus conference, the Association of Canadian Archivists Colloquium and, together with EBSI (l'École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information) at the Université, de Montréal, the Career Fair and the Symposium on Information Studies.

Finally, two doctoral students successfully defended their theses: Dhary Abuhimed (Prof. Beheshti supervisor) and Irene Kitimbo (Prof. Dalkir supervisor).

### 3. Involvement in the Community

#### University community

SIS faculty are very active within the McGill University community. Professor Bartlett serves on the Medicine University Tenure committee as well as on Senate. Professor Beheshti is part of the working group looking at implementing a new Master's degree in Digital Humanities. Prof. Dalkir was part of the Arts Merit Committee for M levels. Prof. Moffatt is on the Committee on Information Technology Oversight. Prof. Park is on the SSHRC doctoral and master's awards group. Prof. Bouthillier serves as Associate Dean, GPS. In addition, faculty supervise graduate students in other academic units such as Psychology and Music and we also have courses that are cross-listed with Bioinformatics and Music.

#### Non-university scholarly community

SIS faculty serve on a number of association and journal boards, editorial teams and review committees. Prof. Dalkir is on the KM Education Standards Committee (Association for Information and Image Management). Prof. Ménard was part of a team that helped catalogue the library of writer Alberto Manguel in Mondion France which contained over 30,000 volumes of literature. Prof. Evans is the SLA (Special Libraries Association) McGill University liaison officer. Profs. Guastavino and Dalkir are involved in the Quartier d'Innovation initiative (ETS-McGill).

Faculty served as external reviewers for SSHRC, NSERC, MITACs, and CFI. Faculty were also reviewers on key journals in our field such as Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (JASIST) and Information Research. They were organizers and on scientific committees of conferences such as International Society for Knowledge Organization, iConference, ACM CHI Conference, and Graphics Interface Conference. Finally, faculty co-supervise doctoral students at a number of universities both within Quebec, Canada and internationally.

### 4. Milestones

Associate Professor Dr. Jamshid Beheshti was promoted to full professor. Assistant Professors, Dr. Max Evans and Dr. Ilja Frissen, were successfully reappointed to a second three-year term.

Dr. Catherine Guastavino was appointed PhD Graduate Program Director. Dr. Karyn Moffatt was appointed MIST Graduate Program Director. Dr. Kimiz Dalkir was appointed Interim Director (Sept. 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016) and then as Director for a three-year term (June 1, 2016 – 2019).

## 5. Honours, Awards and Prizes

Dr. Benjamin Fung was named the Canada Research Chair in Data Mining for Cybersecurity. His research focuses on the analysis of emails to determine authorship and uses data mining techniques to detect cybercrime. His goal is to strengthen privacy protection of personal data.

Five Master's students won awards: Ching Yi Lau (2016 Chinese American Library Association scholarship), Christina de Longhi (Anne Galler Award, Special Libraries Association), Christopher Marsh (Canadian Library Association McGill student to CLA), Miria Olson (Wapati Regional Library's Marion Sherman Bursary for Children's Librarians) and Xiaojing Zhou (Electronic Document Systems Foundation Board of Directors Scholarship).

Among our PhD Students, Steven Ding won second prize in the Hex-Rays Plug-In Contest for his scalable data mining system. Jesse Dinneen was awarded the German Student Academic Exchange Service student grant, Fei Shu was awarded two best papers at ASIS&T, Daniel Steele was awarded a Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Travel Award and a Graduate Research Mobility award, and Trudi Wright was awarded the Komal Gulich, CRM, IGP Memorial Reimbursement Award from the ARMA International Education Foundation.

Most notably, Fei Shu was also awarded the prestigious iSchool iFellowship for which he will receive US \$50k for two years to work on his research on Chinese bibliometrics.