Annual Report: January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

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 2016, 13 new grants were awarded to faculty. The full list appears at: https://www.mcgill.ca/sis/research/new-grants-and-contracts.

Most research is highly collaborative, even within our School, and with others McGill academic units such as. Faculty are also working with Canadian universities such as the universities of Concordia, Montreal, Ryerson, Toronto and British Columbia. On the international level, research projects are underway with the universities of Tennessee, Missouri, SUNY Empire State College (NY), Simmons College (Boston) University of Texas at Austin, Boise State University, University of Sheffield (UK), University of Borås (Sweden), World Economic Forum (Switzerland), Åbo Akademi University (Finland), University of Copenhagen (Denmark), Hunan University (China), Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (South Korea) and Tokyo City University (Japan). Other research partners include the City of Montréal, Dumoulin Acoustics, Bell Helicopter, Bombardier, Pratt and Whitney and JMJ Aeronautique

Publications

11 SIS professors published one book chapter, 22 journal articles, 23 conference proceedings as well as conference posters, panel sessions and encyclopaedia entries. A complete list of 2016 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.

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 2017. The first graduates of the new Certificate will be graduating in June 2017.
The SIS Research Seminar series invited a number of speakers during the year, including giving the opportunity for some of our own PhD students to present their work, as well and presenting research topics from outside SIS.

We also organized a hands on workshop on advanced MS Word which was well attended by students. We plan on revamping the seminar series to include more workshops and more interaction between PhD students and other faculty.

Students once again 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: David Weigl (Prof. Guastavino supervisor) and Irene Kitimbo (Prof. Dalkir supervisor).

3. Involvement in the Community

University community
SIS faculty and students are very active within the McGill University community. Professor Bartlett serves on the Arts University Tenure committee as well as on Senate. Professor Beheshti continued his work on the working group looking at implementing a new Master’s degree in Digital Humanities. Prof. Moffatt is on the Committee on Information Technology Oversight. Prof. Frissen serves on the Arts Faculty Curriculum Committee, Prof. Park is on the Faculty Committee on Student Affairs. 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.

The EBSI-SIS Colloquium was held at McGill this year. We had about 30 who attended to the event. In total we had 6 presentations; three presenters from SIS and three from EBSI. Five presentations were in English and one was in French.

Non-university scholarly community

Prof. Bouthillier presented our MIST program at a Forum on the role and different types of library training, organized by the Comité mixte de développement professionnel of the City of Montreal. Public librarians working in Montreal libraries were invited to participate and approximately 30 librarians attended the event.

4. Milestones

Dr. K. Dalkir was appointed Director of SIS for a three-year term (September 1, 2016 to September 1, 2019).
Dr. Frissen became a member of the Psychonomic Society to recognize significant publications in experimental psychology beyond the doctoral dissertation.

Dr. Fung was appointed as an Associate Member of the School of Computer Science.

Dr. K. Moffatt was awarded the Canada Research Chair Tier 2 in the fall of 2016

Shannon Sullivan, the School’s new Administrative Assistant, was hired in September 2016. This position will help to increase the services available to faculty and students.

Much of 2016 was spent preparing for the Accreditation site visit that took place in September 2016. The entire faculty and many students and alumni took part in the process. McGill’s MISt was the first to undergo the process under the new guidelines and received continued accreditation until January 2024. Our School has been continuously accredited since 1927. The American Library Association (ALA) requested permission to use our report as an example for other universities going through the process.

5. Honours, Awards and Prizes

McGill received an invitation to become a member of the Global University Leaders Forum (GULF) of the World Economic Forum (WEF). The McGill Office of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor appointed Dr. Fung to be a co-curator in the area of cybersecurity for a period of one year. His role is to periodically summarize the latest development in the area of cybersecurity for the participants and leaders in WEF.

Dr. Fung and his doctoral student Steven Ding worked on the Kam1n0 project which has been chosen by Tourism Montreal to be one of the five technological innovations from Montreal: [http://www.tourisme-montreal.org/meetings/2016/07/21/tech-innovations/](http://www.tourisme-montreal.org/meetings/2016/07/21/tech-innovations/).

PhD student Banafsheh Asadi received the ASIS&T 2016 New Leader award, which was presented to her at the ASIS&T meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark.

PhD student Zoe de Geofroy was accepted as an Associate Member into the [Swiss Doctoral School (SDS) in Affective Sciences](http://www.sds.ch).

PhD student Jesse Dinneen received a $1500 award given to one student each year for their dissertation proposal. The award was presented to him at the ASIS&T meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark.

PhD student Mohammad Reza Farhadi received both the FRQNT Doctoral Scholarship ($60,000 for 3 years) and the NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship ($63,000 for 3 years). As he cannot concurrently receive both scholarships, he accepted the NSERC scholarship and declined the FRQNT scholarship. The research topic is assembly code mining.

PhD student Daniel Steele received the Young Researcher International Congress on Acoustics Conference (Buenos Aires, AR), the Young Researcher IPLAI Archie Malloch Fellowship in the amount of $5000 (IPLAI, Institute for the Public Life of Art and Ideas) and Wolfe Chair Graduate Fellowship in the amount of $8000 (Faculty of Arts).