

Director's Report – Posthumanism Research Institute
May 2024

2023-24 was a busy year again, hosting speakers and events (most of them completely online; the only in person and have posted recordings on our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE1yaoB66Zu9IMNSaW-s8Ow>) which has good traffic. We are continuing our collaboration with EPTC (Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture) and hosting a special panel on “Posthumanism and the Human-Technology Nexus” co-organized by Ralph Mercer and myself. The panel takes place June 17, 2:00-5:30 pm at McGill University .

My thanks go to David Fancy, Russel Kilbourn, Ralph Mercer, and Ece Çizmeçi for serving on the Executive Committee. Thanks are also due to Fiona Blaikie for serving as Associate Director in the fall and to Trevor Norris for serving in this capacity in the winter.

The budget and teaching releases provided to the PRI through the VPR office has been really helpful in terms of supporting our activities. We have been able to hire to PRI Student Assistants, Liao Zixuan and Ece Çizmeçi. Ece has been looking after the newsletter sent to members twice monthly and Liao is looking after the website. They are also working together to review the list of members, look into renewals of memberships and, having built a database of members and their interests, establish what activities run by the PRI could be helpful for members. A part of the budget also goes to supporting the Editorial Assistant and Copyeditor at *Interconnections*.

Since our application for a SSHRC Connection grant to support a PRI Summer Camp in June 2024 was not successful, we decided to postpone to June 2025 and apply again. The application is now in at SSHRC and we will get results in October. My thanks to Fiona Blaikie and David Fancy who are serving as co-applicants with me for this grant. Thanks are also due to Ronnie Morris, Research Officer at the Office of Research Services, who has provided excellent and thorough feedback.

Since my last report, two more issues of *Interconnections* have been published. The special issue on “Medical Posthumanities” was published in the fall and our most recent issue, volume 3, issue 1, has been published this spring. A special issue on “The Fungal Turn” is in preparation and we are hoping for a fall publication. We continue to receive regular submissions under each category. Do consider submitting your work to the journal and please consider that the journal welcomes diverse kind of work, including reflective essays and creative work.

We have developed and published our EDIA statement on our website. You can read it here: <https://brocku.ca/pri/advisory-board/>.

Respectfully submitted on May 28, 2024

