



NEWSLETTER

Social Justice Research Institute (SJRI)

January 2020

The SJRI is a vibrant collective of affiliates, associates, fellows, and members brought together by a shared concern for pressing social justice issues.

This month's newsletter is dedicated to providing some highlights for our Semi-Annual General Meeting, announcing the most recent SJRI Grants Program recipients, and informing you about upcoming events.

Semi-Annual General Meeting: Highlights

This event on October 31 opened with short presentations by three SJRI affiliates who have received SJRI Grants about the different ways they have leveraged these funds:

[Gyllian Raby](#) began by framing SJRI as a source of both financial and moral support. She specifically mentioned the importance of other affiliates in helping to develop projects like *City Treaty*. This project involved staging adaptations of the poem by the same name by First Nations artist Marvin Francis to acknowledge that the School of Fine and Performing Arts/Performing Arts Centre is located on Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee land. Gyllian noted that in this case an [SJRI Research Seed Grant](#) helped to fund graduate students and artists. She then explained that *We who know Nothing about Hiawatha are Proud to Present Hiawatha* grew out of *City Treaty*. This project drew on an [SJRI Community Engagement Grant](#) to support student collaboration on a show that highlighted the absurdity of Canadians not knowing - and thus, teachers not teaching - the history of Treaties in Canada's confederation.





[Gregory Betts](#) acknowledged that SJRI Grants can support a wide variety of projects and provided examples. *The Concept of Vancouver*, supported by an [SJRI Community Engagement Grant](#), involved linking Indigenous stories, the local context, food-sharing, and discussion of foundational texts - such as the TRC report, the Two-Row Wampum, Indigenous sci-fi., etc. *Decolonizing the Garde*, supported by a [SJRI Research Seed Grant](#), involved investigating Canadian and Indigenous works to map the complexity of contemporary socio-cultural and ecological issues, and developing related pedagogies and creative practices in response. This latter project has become the basis for a SSHRC Insight Grant to support the creation of a research hub to showcase contact narratives from across the country. Gregory ended his presentation with this advice to applicants to the SJRI Grants Program: center Indigenous voices, and pay and value Indigenous people fairly for their project support and participation.

[Rebecca Raby](#) described her collaboration with Child and Youth Studies colleague Christine Tardiff-Williams, Master of Critical Sociology MA student Amber Varadi, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and Strive Niagara. The project involved conducting and analyzing interviews to evaluate a new mentorship program for student parents. Rebecca felt that this project was a success because it welcomed the viewpoints of student parents, provided useful guidance to community collaborators, and supported Amber's thesis. So far, the project has led to a formal report, a co-authored conference presentation, and a submitted paper. The project was funded by the United Way and by an [SJRI Community Engagement Grant](#).



Our semi-annual general meeting ended with the passing of a governance motion that allows for online voting to be used in exceptional circumstances and the ratification of five new affiliates. If you have any questions about this motion, please feel free to contact SJRI Director, Rebecca Raby at rraby@brocku.ca.

Click [here](#) to read more about this and our other semi-annual general meeting of 2019, which was held in May.

Please also join us in welcoming and congratulating these newly affiliated members:

- Raymond Chiu, Goodman School of Business
- Charlotte Henay, Women's & Gender Studies
- Rachel Rhoades, Dramatic Arts
- Kyle Rich, Recreation & Leisure Studies
- Asma Zafar, Goodman School of Business



Fall 2019 SJRI Grants Recipients

Congratulations also to these most recent recipients of the [SJRI Grants Program](#) competition, which runs each March and November with the purpose of supporting affiliated members with their transdisciplinary social justice research:

SJRI Community Engagement Grant

<i>Recipient(s)</i>	<i>Project Title</i>
Rachel Rhoades	Equity in Cultural Transitions: Theatrical Exploration of Transitional Journeys - In Collaboration with the Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre (\$1360.00)
Joe Norris	Knowledge Mobilization through Theatrical Vignettes: Determining the Efficacy of Participatory Workshops on the Complexities of Person-Centred Care with Family Members and Staff in Acute Care Facilities (\$4000.00)

If you would like to learn more about this program generally and/or to discuss a specific project for which you might seek SJRI support for the Spring or Fall 2020 competitions, please contact SJRI Project Facilitator, Julie Gregory at jgregory@brocku.ca.

Upcoming Events

We are happy to announce that the Niagara Social Justice Forum will take place on February 1, 2020. Click here to register for this event and click [here](#) to keep up-to-date about this and other SJRI-supported events, including two [SJRI workshops](#) we are in the process of planning: one on Land Acknowledgments and another on the topic of ethics and community-university research relationships.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED

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Click [here](#) to follow us on Twitter

Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome @ SJRI@brocku.ca!