



# York University Research Leaders

**April 2018**

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH & INNOVATION



**Rhonda L. Lenton**  
*President and Vice-Chancellor  
York University*

It is our great pleasure to acknowledge the 2017 York University Research Leaders. We are pleased to recognize these remarkable achievements of our community over the past year.

At York, research excellence and innovation are flourishing. Not yet 60, we have grown to become the third-largest university in the country, known internationally as a progressive, comprehensive, research university with many highly ranked programs.

York's vision is built on four, distinct pillars that define the University today: access, connectedness, excellence and impact. This acknowledgement is, above all, a demonstration of York's commitment to research excellence and impact. Our researchers - recognized leaders and pioneers in their fields - are deeply committed to advancing innovative research projects across the vast spectrum of disciplines for the social, economic, cultural, environmental and other well-being of society. Our distinct identity and vision is to offer a broad sociodemographic of students access to a high-quality, research-intensive university, so that our students and postdoctoral fellows enjoy the active mentorship of nationally and internationally recognized scholars in an exciting research environment bound by an unwavering commitment to research and teaching.

This recognition also exemplifies how multifaceted and diverse York's research truly is, with historic strengths across numerous fields, including strong intradisciplinary work in the humanities and social sciences; environmental studies; the arts; professional programs such as education, law and business; our French and bilingual programming; and health and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) areas.

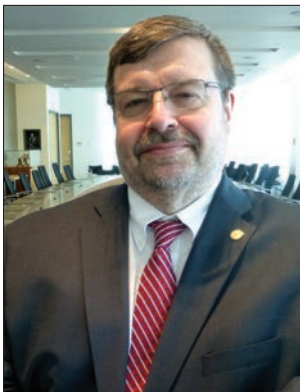
Our connectedness, another pillar for York, is reflected in our commitment to working closely with our community partners, both locally and internationally, on innovative academic programs and research collaborations. Our Markham Centre Campus will play a key role in advancing these partnerships in the region when it opens its doors in 2021. Our researchers are working with industry, government, community groups, not-for-profits and international academic partners to create new knowledge and discoveries that accelerate the development of cutting-edge solutions to the world's most pressing scientific questions and social challenges.

Through this vital work, our researchers and scholars are fulfilling the University's mission and vision to advance academic and research excellence for the benefit of all, while at the same time helping to establish York among the country's leading research-intensive universities.

We are deeply committed to supporting our researchers and scholars, and wish to extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes to all our research leaders this year for their continued success.

Sincerely,

**Rhonda L. Lenton**, *President & Vice-Chancellor, York University*  
**Robert Haché**, *Vice-President Research & Innovation, York University*



**Robert Haché**  
*Vice-President  
Research & Innovation  
York University*

## FACULTY OF LIBERAL ARTS & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

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**Kristin Andrews** was awarded a **Tier 2 York Research Chair in Animal Minds**. Andrews' interests are in animal and child social cognition and moral development. She has worked with dolphins in Hawaii and orangutans in Borneo. Her research area is in the philosophy of psychology. Her first book, *Do Apes Read Minds?* was published by MIT Press in 2012. Three years later, she was elected into the Royal Society of Canada College of New Scholars.

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**Uzo Anucha** renewed a multi-million-dollar contract with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services for the Youth Research and Evaluation eXchange (**YouthREX**), a provincial project whose mandate is to make research evidence and evaluation practices accessible and relevant to Ontario's youth sector through capacity building, knowledge mobilization, and evaluation leadership. Anucha's community-engaged scholarship seeks to bridge the gap between knowledge production and knowledge use by translating and disseminating research findings to end users (policy-makers and practitioners) using multiple channels.

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**Isabella Bakker** was awarded a **Fulbright Visiting Research Chair** at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Program in Global and International Studies. Bakker is a Tier 1 York Research Chair in Global Economic Governance, Gender and Human Rights. Her research places a critical lens on global economic policy and governance practices. She is also examining health, education and welfare policies in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis with the central aim of supporting the development of progressive, human-centred economic theories and policies.



**Lily Cho** was awarded the **York-Massey Fellowship** for 2017-2018. Cho's research focuses on diaspora within the fields of cultural studies, postcolonial literature and theory, and Asian North American and Canadian literature. She explores the relationship between citizenship, photography and anticipation. During this fellowship, Cho will complete work on her Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)-funded project, "Mass Capture: the Chinese head tax and the making of non-citizens in Canada." This project examines the relationship between surveillance and the production of non-citizen subjects by examining an extraordinary archive of over 40,000 head tax photographs.



**Jonathan Edmondson** was recognized as a **Distinguished Research Professor** in 2017. The nomination for Edmondson offers high praise for the international impact of his prolific, original scholarly research, his contributions to the development of young scholars and his reputation as a good citizen of the University. Edmondson's research interests are in Roman History, particularly in the society, economy and culture of Roman Spain from the late Iron Age to the late Roman Empire; Roman epigraphy, especially of the Roman Empire; gladiators in Roman society; the Roman family; and Greco-Roman historiography.



**Richard C. Hoffmann** was elected to the **Royal Society of Canada Division of Humanities**. Through his internationally renowned, prize-winning and pioneering scholarship; his mentoring of emerging scholars; and his networking and organizational activities, Hoffmann has built the environmental history of premodern Europe. His collaboration with Austrian aquatic ecologists had an impact on public policy regarding the protection and management of indigenous fish species in several European countries.



**Caroline Shenaz Hossein** was awarded **W.E.B. DuBois Distinguished Book Award** by the National Conference of Black Political Scientists for her book, *Politicized Microfinance: Money, Power, and Violence in the Black Americas* (University of Toronto Press, 2016). Hossein's analysis offers multiple solutions that prioritize the needs of historically oppressed people of African descent in business and society. She received the 2017 Helen Potter Award for best journal article in the *Review of Social Economy* and received a Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Development Grant for "African Origins in the Social Economy."

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**Lesley A. Jacobs** was elected to the **Royal Society of Canada Division of Social Sciences**. He is professor and director of the Institute for Social Research at York where he teaches political science and law and society, as well as in the graduate program of Law at Osgoode Hall Law School and the graduate program in socio-legal studies. He is appointed a Tier 1 York Research Chair in Human Rights an Access to Justice. His research chair is focused on establishing an innovative Access to Justice Research Lab.

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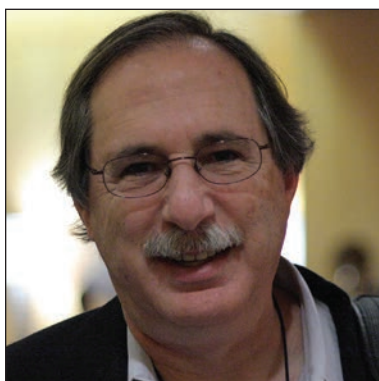
**Kamala Kempadoo** won the **Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award** from the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. This award recognizes professionals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of sexology. It is presented to honor scientific contributions as reflected in such professional activities as research, education or therapy. Kempadoo's areas of specialization are transnational and Caribbean feminisms, human trafficking discourses, studies of sexual labour-economic relations, Black studies, Caribbean studies, and gender and development.



**Jennifer Korosi** was awarded **Petro-Canada Young Innovators Award**. This award recognizes, promotes and supports outstanding and innovative emerging researchers whose work contributes significantly to the training environment of the University and has an impact on society at large. Korosi's research examines how human activities drive ecological and biogeochemical change in aquatic ecosystems, to study recent aquatic ecosystem change over the context of the last several hundred years. She works in both temperate and high latitude regions throughout Canada, and has a strong focus in the Northwest Territories.



**Nikita Lary** won the **American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages Prize** for best scholarly translation. Lary, with Jay Leyda and Alexander Medvedkin, produced *The Alexander Medvedkin Reader* (University of Chicago Press, 2017). Medvedkin's signal achievement was his series of Kino-Train documentaries. With his film crew in 1931, he travelled to collectivized farms and factories, and made interactive films in which agricultural or industrial workers contributed to script writing and acting, then viewed the film and participated in the discussion of production obstacles identified in it. Each film exercise was completed in just three days.



**Bernard Lightman** won **Choice Magazine's Outstanding Academic Title** book prize for *Science Museums in Transition: Anglo-American Cultures of Display in the 19th Century*, edited by Lightman and Carin Berkowitz (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2017). Lightman has published widely in the area of cultural history of Victorian science. Elected as Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2011, Lightman was also elected President of the History of Science Society for 2018-2019.



**Marcel Martel** was elected to the **Royal Society of Canada Division des Lettres et Sciences Humaines**. He is a renowned historian whose research on collective memory, identity formation and French Canada has redefined the traditional boundaries of these fields. He is the recipient of numerous awards, and holds the prestigious Avie Bennett Historica Canada Chair in Canadian History at York University. Martel publishes original scholarship in both French and English and his research is widely recognized for both its quality and impact on public policy.

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**Karen Bridget Murray** was awarded the **Killam Visiting Professorship in Canadian Studies** at Bridgewater State University, Massachusetts – the only endowed chair in Canadian Studies at a public university in the United States. Focusing on Canada as a terrain of interconnected colonial, global and transnational dynamics, Murray's research evaluates and theorizes changing norms and forms of modernity, and the political and governmental ramifications of these transformations, both as they pertain to intersectional fields of race, class and gender in cities, as well as how they relate to the residential school system.

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**David McNab** was elected to the **Royal Society of Canada Division of Humanities**. He is a renowned Métis historian and a leading authority in Canada's movement to Reconciliation. His significant and innovative research on Indigenous Treaties, Indigenous land and resource issues in Canada is facilitating substantial return of land and resources or fair value compensation to Indigenous people by governments. A prodigiously prolific scholar, his acclaimed scholarly publications and technical reports promote First Nations' and Métis' stories in Canada's narratives.





**Linda Peake** is the Principal Investigator for a major **Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Partnership Grant** focused on “Urbanization, gender and the global south: a transformative knowledge network.” The project team will conduct research and engage in public education and policy enrichment in seven strategically chosen cities in lower middle-income countries [Cairo, Cochabamba, Georgetown (Guyana), Ibadan, Mumbai, Ramallah, and Shanghai] to advance understanding of how the relationship between poverty and inequality is being transformed, focusing on how this is reconstituting gender relations and women’s right to the city.



**Alicia Turner** was awarded the **Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Research Fellowship** in Buddhist Studies for her book project that charts a genealogy of religious intolerance in Myanmar, from the colonial period to the present. The book starts from the realities that democracy has failed to deliver peace and pluralism and Buddhist nationalism continues to produce violence against minorities. It then considers how the practices of colonial secularism reified categories of religious difference and how other Buddhist projects built bridges across such divides.



**Deanne Williams** was inducted to the **Royal Society of Canada College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists**. Specializing in medieval and Renaissance literature, she is recognized internationally for her pioneering work on Renaissance girlhood, including her recent book *Shakespeare and the Performance of Girlhood* (2014). She established her reputation early with her prize-winning *The French Fetish from Chaucer to Shakespeare* (2004), which considers the impact of the Norman Conquest on the culture of medieval and Renaissance England. She is currently at work on a study of medieval and early modern Girl Culture.



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[research.info.yorku.ca/brainstorm](http://research.info.yorku.ca/brainstorm)

Watch the **"2 Minutes, 3 Questions"** video series where York researchers and academics discuss the impact of their work.

Available on our YouTube playlist: [bit.ly/2mPtT8Z](https://bit.ly/2mPtT8Z)

Don't miss the **"York Research Impact Story"** where Robert Haché, Vice-President Research & Innovation, provides a comprehensive overview of the acceleration of research at York. He showcases the local, national and international impact of this vital work, emphasizing partnerships and community engagement, and return on investment.

Available on our YouTube playlist: [bit.ly/2mtwaDf](https://bit.ly/2mtwaDf)