



SSHRC Grants “Screwed U” Backgrounder

Introduction

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) funds post-secondary research. Industry Minister James Moore says SSHRC is “laying the groundwork for a more prosperous future for Canada,” while Science Minister Greg Rickford says SSHRC is “concretely helping enrich Canadian communities” as it “funds research and research training that builds knowledge about people, past and present, with a view toward creating a better future.”¹

Budget 2014 also praised the work of SSHRC, “Canada leads the G-7 when it comes to investing in post-secondary research.”² And to continue that leadership Budget 2014 announced \$1.5 billion for the Canada First Research Excellence Fund to be administered by SSHRC.³ The budget also announced “the largest annual increase in funding for research through the granting councils in over a decade.”⁴ That means \$7 million for SSHRC and \$9 million for the *Indirect Costs Program*.⁵ The money for the *Indirect Costs Program* will be split with two other granting agencies.

In 2013, SSHRC spent \$669 million on grants. The *Indirect Costs Program* transferred \$332 million of that money to institutions to cover the indirect costs of research. The remaining \$337 million was spent on grants for specific research projects. Another \$28 million was spent on operating costs. In total SSHRC cost taxpayer \$700 million.⁶ That’s up 22% since 2006 when SSHRC cost \$571 million.⁷

The criteria for each grant opportunity is different. For the Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master’s Program the selection process is carried out at the university. The criteria are based on “Academic Excellence,” “Research Potential” and “Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills.”⁸

The Postdoctoral Fellowships grant’s criteria are “The aim and importance of the endeavor,” “The plan to achieve excellence” and “The expertise to succeed.” Only 20 per cent of the scoring is based on the importance of the endeavor.⁹

We have looked through some of the published research funded by SSHRC and some of it looks to be of questionable importance. And we eagerly await the publication of other research papers that are still works in progress.

The Canadian Graduate Scholarship-Master’s Program grants from 2012 can be found [here](#).

For information on other grants from other years or other programs there is a [search engine](#).

¹ 2014-15 Part III – Reports on Plans and Priorities. http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/publications/rpp/2014-2015/rpp-eng.aspx

² Budget Speech 2014. <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/speech-discours/2014-02-11-eng.html>

³ Canada First Research Excellence Fund. <http://actionplan.gc.ca/en/initiative/canada-first-research-excellence-fund>

⁴ Budget Speech 2014. <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/speech-discours/2014-02-11-eng.html>

⁵ Budget 2014. <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/ch3-2-eng.html>

⁶ Public Accounts of Canada 2013. <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/recgen/cpc-pac/2013/pdf/2013-vol2-eng.pdf>

⁷ Public Accounts of Canada 2006. <http://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/P51-1-2006-3-1E.pdf>

⁸ Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master’s Program. <http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/P51-1-2006-3-1E.pdf>

⁹ SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships October 2013 Competition. <http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programmes-programmes/fellowships/postdoctoral-postdoctorale-eng.aspx>

Published Works

In 2007, a \$17,500 SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship was awarded for research on heterosexual casual sex among young adults in Jasper. The 217 pages of research are based on interviews of 21 young adults in Jasper (YAJs). The author would go to the bar, dance, drink, hike and bike to observe YAJs and then talk to them about their sex lives. She described several of those interviews as feeling “like friends going for coffee and discussing their sexual lives.”

Title	Sexual Consent to Heterosexual Casual Sex among Young Adults Living in Jasper by Melanie A. Beres		
Grant	\$17,500	Link	http://www.outil.ost.uqam.ca/CRSH/Detail.aspx?Cle=52735
Program	Postdoctoral Fellowships	Year	2007
School	Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta		
Paper	http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/thesescanada/vol2/002/NR22989.PDF		
Highlights	<p>“... conditions of the field necessitated using forms of snowball sampling and convenience sampling” p.67</p> <p>“I engaged in many social activities with YAJs including going to the bar, dancing, drinking (albeit considerably less than most YAJs), going to the beach, and occasionally hiking or biking. During these activities I observed YAJs behaviours, especially those which seemed to lead towards sexual activity and I talked with them about their experiences in Jasper.” p.71</p> <p>“Several interviews felt like friends going for coffee and discussing their sexual lives” p.76</p> <p>“There were a few people who did not show up for a scheduled interview because the weather was good and they decided to go to the beach with their friends” p.84</p> <p>“I decided that one drink would not impair my observational skills, so I would buy a drink at the beginning of the night and nurse it for the duration of the evening” p.80</p> <p>“Most people told me that I was in the right place to study sexual relationships” p.88</p> <p>“Many of the jobs require relatively little skill, making it possible for them to go to work hung-over, drunk or high on a regular basis” p.100</p> <p>“Regardless of who made the initial approach, eye contact is considered very important in determining whom to approach. Several men mentioned that is not advisable to approach a woman prior to making some eye contact” p.122</p> <p>First, I begin this chapter by highlighting was that the negotiation of casual sex in Jasper is dominated by discourses that privilege male sexual desire” p.131</p> <p>“Almost all of the participants began discussions about determining willingness to engage in casual sex by suggesting that ‘you just know.’ When I asked them to elaborate on how they ‘just know’, a few participants maintained that this knowledge was innate and communicated through inexplicable forces.” p.165</p>		

In 2009, a \$17,500 SSHRC master's scholarship was awarded for a fictional novel written in the second person. The protagonist, Carrie, is narrating her experiences to herself. She makes constant reference to "you," which the reader shouldn't misinterpret as meaning them but Carrie talking about herself. The 104 page novel reads like this: "For instance, when you asked yourself what you wanted for breakfast this morning it sounded like, 'Choose toast and flip to page 81' or 'Take the cereal and skip to page 112.' "

Title	Things you've inherited from your mother (study on secondary Character perspectives in literature) by Hollie Adams		
Grant	\$17,500	Link	http://www.outil.ost.uqam.ca/CRSH/Detail.aspx?Cle=77451&Langue=2
Program	Canada Graduate Scholarships Program - Masters Scholarships	Year	2009
School	Department of English Language, Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Windsor		
Paper	http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/thesescanada/vol2/002/MR62733.PDF		
Highlights	<p>"You first started this thesis project as a short story in Dr. Nicole Markotic's third year creative writing class ... You were immediately struck by the narrative form of the story. Written from a second-person point-of-view." p.105</p> <p>"For instance, when you asked yourself what you wanted for breakfast this morning" p.3</p> <p>"You wonder when you last washed the cutting board. You also wonder whether cat dander is edible; it is unlikely you'll remember to wash the cutting board before you cook next." p.5</p>		

In 2008, a \$17,500 SSHRC master's scholarship was awarded for research about the rising popularity of pole dancing. The 153 pages of research are based on interviews with 17 women. This exploration of fitness pole-dancing focuses on its oppressive and empowering elements.

Title	The Poles Are in Exploring Women's Sexual Identities and the Rising Popularity of Pole Dancing by Megan Hamilton		
Grant	\$17,500	Link	http://www.outil.ost.uqam.ca/CRSH/Detail.aspx?Cle=62728
Program	Canada Graduate Scholarships Program - Masters Scholarships	Year	2008
School	Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Guelph		
Paper	http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/thesescanada/vol2/002/MR52229.PDF		
Highlights	<p>"An example of postfeminist sexual ideals can be seen in the television series, <i>Sex in the City</i>, most clearly through the character Samantha" p.19</p> <p>"I began by using participant observation to enter the field of study and personally experience the phenomenon of pole-dancing" p.49 "Finally, it gave me the opportunity to personally understand how it felt to be a pole-dancing student" p.53</p> <p>"The majority of the women, (eight of the 17), had college or university listed as their highest level of education..." p. 68</p> <p>"Kate, an instructor, explained this: 'I don't think that any person that says, 'Honey, I'm going to take pole-dancing,' is going to go 'No, don't do it'. So yeah, he supports me (...). Therefore, most women felt it was obvious that their partners were happy they were taking pole dancing. " (85).</p> <p>"Therefore, some women found they integrated the dance and stretching skills they learned in pole-dancing class that did not require a pole with their daily activities" p. 103</p> <p>"One limitation of this research is the fact that it was a small study, meaning that the findings are not generalizable" p. 149</p>		

In 2009, a \$17,500 SSHRC master's scholarship was awarded for research into school teachers with tattoos and piercings. This research is based on the experience of three teachers. The 201 pages of research are partly about the author. She says that her first layer of analysis is her own lived experience and "I chose this study because I am this study."

Title	Marking the unmarked: the experiences of visibly body-modified teachers, phenomenology, and the pedagogy of the body by Tanya K. Howard		
Grant	\$17,500	Link	http://www.outil.ost.uqam.ca/CRSH/Detail.aspx?Cle=76504
Program	Canada Graduate Scholarships Program - Masters Scholarships	Year	2009
School	Faculty of Education at the University of Ottawa		
Paper	http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/thesescanada/vol2/OOU/TC-OOU-23480.pdf		
Highlights	<p>"I did not conduct my study simply because it adds something new to educational scholarship. I chose this study because I am this study." p.36</p> <p>"For every scholarly article or book I have ever read, I matched it by reading a post on Body Modification E-Zine (BME) or the Facebook group 'Tattoo Acceptance in the Workplace'" p.37</p> <p>"Thus, I do not provide a conclusive answer to What it is like to be a tattooed teacher? I offer evocative descriptions of tattooed teachers' experiences, writing that seeks to sing their world into being on the page, and passages that invite readers to step into their lifeworld and better understand what it means to be a tattooed teacher." p.43</p> <p>"As a first layer of analysis, I wrote personal descriptions about my lived experiences as a tattooed teacher" p.48</p>		

Works in Progress

A \$20,000 SSHRC doctoral fellowship was awarded for research into China's online role-playing game industry.

Title	Digital designs: cultural identity, nationalism, and China's online role-playing game industry by Heather A. Barnick		
Grant	\$20,000	Link	http://www.outil.ost.uqam.ca/CRSH/Detail.aspx?Cle=77526
Program	Doctoral Fellowships	Year	2009
School	Department of Social Anthropology at York University		
Summary	http://www.linkedin.com/pub/heather-barnick/23/82a/ba9		
Highlights	<p>Project Summary:</p> <p>"The aim of this research project is to trace the ways in which Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games (MMORPGs) are becoming prominent sites for articulating national and cultural imaginaries in Mainland China. During the course of fieldwork, interviews and participant-observation activities will be guided by three questions: 1) In what ways are domestically produced MMORPGs in China becoming significant sites of nostalgia and historical preservation? 2) How do youth from Shanghai engage with these reconstituted histories? 3) How are Shanghai youths' understandings of national and cultural identity continuously formed, expressed, and re-imagined through their participation in MMORPGs produced in China?"</p>		

A \$20,000 SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship was awarded for research into fan letters to porn star Nina Hartley.

Title	Letters to a porn star: an epistolary analysis of Nina Hartley's fan mail by Ingrid R. Olson		
Grant	\$20,000	Link	http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/results-resultats/2013/doctoral-doctorat_2012_EF.pdf
Program	Postdoctoral Fellowships	Year	2012
School	Centre for Cross-Faculty Inquiry in Education at The University of British Columbia		
Show in San Francisco	http://www.sexandculture.org/post/41181391677/csc-gallery-letters-to-a-porn-star-nina-hartley		
Interview	https://m2.facebook.com/HorizonsFoundation/photos/a.10150969415867333.412701.24499197332/10152144676142333/?type=1&source=46		
Highlights	<p>“What could be more interesting than a queer Canadian academic who changes horses in mid-stream after visiting the Center for Sex & Culture, switching research focus to delve into bisexual porn star Nina Hartley’s fan mail, and finding love in the Bay Area with a queer dance teacher? Read on for Ingrid & Alexandria’s story, and the ways CSC sustains and supports their relationship as partners, researchers, and artists... INGRID: I'm now in the 4th year of my PhD at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. I started writing my dissertation a month ago. My original area of research examined what I refer to as “alternative identifications” created and developed through S/m practices and/or relationships. I first visited the CSC Archives for 3 weeks in July-August 2011. The intention in 2011 was to access archival material on S/m and D/s at the CSC. During my tour of the CSC Archives with CSC Board Member and Archivist Marlene Hoeber, she indicated that a number of boxes were donated by Nina Hartley, mostly consisting of her cumulative fan mail. I was immediately fascinated with the idea of fan mail sent to a pornography icon, and, over the course of those three weeks, I would periodically break from the S/m material and read several of Hartley's fan letters. The letters were very diverse, geographically, demographically, and sexually. What was and remains most interesting to me is that many of the letters can be understood as confessionals, what Foucault termed "the transformation of sex into discourse."</p>		

A \$17,500 SSHRC master’s scholarship was awarded for research on linguistic identity creation in World of Warcraft.

Title	Linguistic identity creation through communities of practice in World of Warcraft by James G. Bulgin		
Grant	\$17,500	Link	http://www.outil.ost.uqam.ca/CRSH/Detail.aspx?Cle=74714
Program	Canada Graduate Scholarships Program - Masters Scholarships	Year	2009
School	Department of Linguistics at Memorial University		