



Royal Roads
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

NEWSLETTER

Research Calls and Funding Opportunities

May 29, 2026

[FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES](#)

[TRI-AGENCY FUNDING](#)

[OPPORTUNITIES](#)

[SPOTLIGHT](#)



'Ducks on a foggy morning,' by Trey Ratcliff is used under [Creative Commons license CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](#).

Funding and Award Opportunities

Call for Applications: *RRU Internal Grant for Research (IGR) 2026-27*

Application deadline: **June 30, 2026 @ 11:59 pm**

Late applications or applications not submitted through the [Internal Awards inbox](#) will not be accepted. If June 30th falls on a weekend or STAT holiday, applications will be due the following business day at 11:59 pm.

Value: Up to \$3,000

Duration: 1 year

The 2026-27 RRU Internal Grants for Research (IGR) competition is now open.

Royal Roads University Internal Research Grants are available to core faculty, deans and librarians to support projects that undertake research and mobilize knowledge. Proposals are encouraged from a broad range of research topics, while keeping in mind Royal Roads' three research themes.

Internal Research Grant funding is separate from, but can be used to complement activities being undertaken with some internal or other external funding sources.

Effective starting with this year's competition, please note the following:

- **The Committee will not read any content in the project description that exceeds the 1500-word limit.** The Committee will base its decision solely on the first 1500 words of the project description, along with the other sections of the application. A list of works cited does not count towards the 1500-word limit.
- **No follow-up for missing information or requests for additional information will be conducted.** Decisions will be made on the basis of the final submitted application.
- **Abstracts are now required.** If you do not want the abstract to be posted on the university's website, you can note that in the abstract section

The guidelines and application form are available on the [RRU Internal Awards website](#).

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include RRU core faculty, deans, and librarians.

Applicants may hold only one IGR at a time (but may hold this award simultaneously with internal grants noted above). Funds will not be released for a new award until applicants have submitted their final written report for a previous grant.

Award term

The project funding will be available for one year with a **start date of October 1st, 2026**. **No expenses may be incurred before the start date.**

For more information: Visit the [RRU Internal Awards website](#), or [contact RRU Internal Awards](#).

Call for applications: New Ways Fund 2026-27 Competition

Application deadline: June 30, 2026

Value: Up to \$5,000

Duration: 1 year

Attn: RRU Core Faculty Members

The Office of Indigenous Education is pleased to announce a competition call, The New Ways Fund - Centering Indigenization, Decolonization, and Reconciliation.

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training has provided Royal Roads University (RRU) with funds for pilot projects that directly engage faculty in centering Indigenization, Decolonization, and Reconciliation. The goal of these initiatives is to enhance the post-secondary educational experiences and outcomes for Indigenous students.

[Application deadline](#) - 11:59 pm June 30, 2026.

Late applications or applications not submitted through the [Internal Awards inbox](#) will not be accepted. If June 30th falls on a weekend or STAT holiday, applications will be due the following business day at 11:59 pm.

Eligibility - All core faculty members.

Funding amount for 2026 - up to \$5,000.00.

Award term - September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027 (No funds may be spent before the start date.)

Submission details - Applications must consist of one (1) word or PDF document and can include a video file (optional). Please submit to the New Ways Fund Panel via [the RRU Internal Awards email](#).

The application form was sent out by email. If you are not able to access it, please contact [RRU Internal Awards](#).



Call for proposals: NSERC Discovery Horizons Grants

Letter of Intent deadline: June 15, 2026
Full Application deadline: October 19, 2026

Value: From \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year
Duration: Up to 5 years

The Discovery Horizons program provides support for interdisciplinary research activities that advance at least two intertwined research disciplines with at least one of them outside the natural sciences and engineering (NSE). The program supports innovative research that bridges disciplines, fosters collaboration across academic fields and provides training opportunities for highly qualified personnel (HQP).

In the context of this funding opportunity, the term “interdisciplinary” should be understood to fully encompass all research that connects, crosses or falls between the traditional disciplines of the three agencies, including transdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, convergence research and other approaches at the interface. The [jointly administered tri-agency peer review committee](#) will assess all full applications submitted to NSERC’s Discovery Horizons program

Discovery Horizons grants are expected to be valued from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year and will be commensurate with the size of the research team.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| • Single applicant | \$ 50,000 maximum yearly value |
| • Applicant and one co-applicant | \$ 75,000 maximum yearly value |
| • Applicant and two or more co-applicants | \$100,000 maximum yearly value |

Research objective

The Discovery Horizons program provides NSERC's entry point to the TAIPR mechanism. It supports Discovery research projects that would significantly benefit from being assessed by the TAIPR committee and aims to:

- answer NSE research questions that are best addressed through interdisciplinary approaches
- advance NSE disciplines through cross-fertilization and new ways of thinking about research questions, ideas and frameworks, approaches and methods, platforms, tools and infrastructure, and people, partners and trainees
- provide leading-edge NSE training for highly qualified personnel (HQP) in interdisciplinary research environments.

Eligibility

Canadian university researchers who are eligible to receive NSERC funds can apply on their own or as a team with co-applicants who are also eligible academic researchers. Consult NSERC's eligibility requirements for [Individual eligibility](#) (for university faculty) to ensure that you can participate in this grant program as an applicant or a co-applicant.

Note that, as of the 2024 competition, **applicants or co-applicants for the Discovery Horizons program cannot simultaneously hold a Discovery Grant and a Discovery Horizons grant.**

Subject matter eligibility

An eligible proposal must meet both of the following criteria:

- Its primary objective must be to advance knowledge in the NSE
- It must integrate or transcend disciplines in ways that would significantly benefit from peer review by a [TAIPR committee](#).

Note that proposals that solely rely on the use of existing NSE methods and/or tools, while not advancing knowledge within an NSE field, are not eligible for Discovery Horizons.

Indigenous research

Research involving Indigenous Peoples and communities is especially welcome in projects supported by Discovery Horizons grants. NSERC specifies Indigenous research as research in any field or discipline related to the natural sciences or engineering that is conducted by, grounded in, or meaningfully engaged with First Nations, Inuit, Métis or other Indigenous Peoples and nations, communities, societies or individuals, and their wisdom, cultures, experiences or knowledge systems, as expressed in their dynamic forms, past and present.

For more information: [Visit the NSERC Discovery Horizons web page](#)

Call for proposals: Trans-Atlantic Platform: Preparing for Tomorrow

Letter of Intent deadline: July 8, 2026
Full application deadline: October 28, 2026

Value: Up to \$250,000

Duration: 2 to 3 years

The Trans-Atlantic Platform (TAP) is pleased to announce its fifth international funding call, Preparing for Tomorrow: Societies and Strategies in Times of Transition.

In a time of profound global uncertainty—shaped by climate change, pandemics, geopolitical tensions, economic disruption, technological transformation, and epistemic challenges—the call will support innovative, transnational social sciences and humanities (SSH) research that strengthens society’s capacity to anticipate, understand, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

Aim of the call

The Preparing for Tomorrow call will fund collaborative research that advances conceptual, empirical, and normative understanding of how societies envision, prepare for, and respond to uncertain futures. It seeks to generate knowledge that supports resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking strategies, and that informs policy and practice at local, national, and international levels.

Scope and focus

Proposals are invited from transnational research teams to address one or more of the following overarching themes:

- Uncertainty: sources, costs, communication, and improvement
- The many faces of the future and crisis: historical, cultural, and regional perspectives
- Scope and coordination of response strategies
- Normative inquiry into prevention and preparation for future crises

Research may draw on a wide range of disciplinary, interdisciplinary, theoretical, methodological, and applied approaches within SSH, including qualitative, quantitative, mixed-methods, historical, and future-oriented methodologies.

Key features

The call will:

- Support international and interdisciplinary collaboration across countries on both sides of the Atlantic and beyond.
- Encourage engagement with policymakers, communities, and other stakeholders.
- Promote diversity within research teams, including the involvement and development of early career researchers.
- Address both risks and opportunities arising from societal, political, technological, and environmental change.

Overview of the Canadian Funding Mechanism for Canadian Applicants

When a project is selected for funding, each of the teams will receive a grant from its respective country and funder(s). For Canadian teams, projects will be funded based on the funding request submitted by the team. SSHRC applicants can request up to a maximum of \$250,000 in funding.

To apply for the SSHRC funding component of the larger T-AP P4T Call, the Principal Investigator must be affiliated with an eligible Canadian postsecondary institution. In addition to the required documents for the larger T-AP proposal (the main application), the Principal Investigator in Canada must submit budget and administrative documents to SSHRC via the [Convergence Portal](#) on or before the deadline of October 28, 2026.

Webinars

Date	Time	Language	Registration and webinar link
June 10, 2026	11 am to 12:30 pm Eastern 8 am to 9:30 am Pacific	French	French language webinar

June 10, 2026	2 pm to 3:30 pm Eastern 11 am to 12:30 pm Pacific	English	English language webinar
---------------	--	---------	--

For more information:

[Visit the Trans-Atlantic Platform on the SSHRC website](#)

[Visit the Trans-Atlantic Platform: Preparing for Tomorrow web page](#)

[Review the SSHRC-FRQ, Canada - national addendum, English document](#) (pdf)

Call for proposals: SSHRC Connection Grants

Proposal deadlines: August 4 and November 2, 2026

Value: Events: \$10,000 to \$25,000
Outreach activities: \$10,000 to \$50,000

For outreach activities only, SSHRC is willing to consider amounts higher than \$50,000, although such applications must satisfactorily justify the need for the higher amount, as well as provide evidence the entire award can be managed within the one-year time frame.

Duration: 1 year

Connection Grants are expected to respond to the objectives of the [Research Partnerships program](#).

These grants support events and outreach activities geared toward short-term, targeted knowledge mobilization initiatives. These events and activities represent opportunities to exchange knowledge and engage with participants on research issues they value. Events and outreach activities funded by a Connection Grant can often serve as a first step toward more comprehensive and longer-term projects.

Connection Grants support workshops, colloquiums, conferences, forums, summer institutes, documentaries or other events or outreach activities that facilitate:

- disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary exchanges in the social sciences and humanities;
- scholarly exchanges between those working in the social sciences and humanities and those working in other research fields;
- intersectoral exchanges between academic researchers in the social sciences and humanities and researchers and practitioners from the public, private and/or not-for-profit sectors; and/or
- international research collaboration and scholarly exchanges with researchers, students and non-academic partners from other countries.

Only a Canadian institution that holds institutional eligibility can administer funds. However, the intellectual leadership and governance for Connection Grant activities can come from within the research community and/or from within the not-for-profit sectors.

SSHRC welcomes applications involving Indigenous research, as well as those involving research-creation. To this regard, Connection Grants support events and outreach activities related to research-creation and Indigenous research.

[Research Data Management Capacity Building Initiative](#)

Through this initiative, SSHRC is committed to funding up to 10 meritorious Connection Grant proposals per competition to help the social sciences and humanities research community develop, adopt and disseminate research data management standards, practices, tools and skills. Learn more about the [Research Data Management Capacity Building Initiative](#).

Unless otherwise indicated, there is no separate application process for most initiatives and supplements. However, candidates must select this initiative on the first page of the application to indicate they wish to be considered for an initiative or a supplement. They also need to explain why they wish to be considered in their application form. SSRHC staff will conduct an administrative review to evaluate the proposal's relevance to this initiative. Applications deemed ineligible for the Research Data Management Capacity Building Initiative will remain in the Connection Grants competition.

For more information: [Visit the SSHRC Connection Grants web page](#)

Call for proposals: New Frontiers in Research Fund - Exploration

Notice of Intent deadline: **August 18, 2026**

Full application deadline: **October 20, 2026**

Value: Up to \$100,000 per year, plus up to 25% for indirect costs

Duration: Up to 2 years

The goal of the Exploration stream is to inspire high-risk, high-reward and interdisciplinary research.

Exploration grants support research that pushes boundaries into exciting new areas. Researchers are encouraged to think “outside of the box” and undertake research that defies current paradigms; brings disciplines together in unexpected ways and from bold, innovative perspectives; and has the potential to be disruptive or deliver game-changing impacts.

Exploration stream grants support projects that:

- **bring disciplines together** beyond traditional disciplinary or common interdisciplinary approaches;
- propose to **explore something new**, which **might fail**; and
- have the **potential for significant impact**.

Exploration grants support research with a range of impacts—economic, scientific, artistic, cultural, social, technological, environmental or health-related. This list is not exhaustive; other types of impacts are also recognized. Diversity of perspectives is important, and the fund encourages research proposals led from any discipline, from those in the social sciences and humanities, to health, the natural sciences and engineering.

Research team

To encourage projects that push the boundaries in terms of interdisciplinarity, proposals must be submitted by research teams with at least two individuals. In addition to a nominated principal investigator (NPI), the team must include either a co-principal investigator (co-PI) or a co-applicant. Teams may include one co-PI and any number of co-applicants and/or collaborators.

Teams should reflect an integrated interdisciplinary approach to the project, including expertise in all relevant disciplines.

To ensure that Exploration grants support high-risk, high-reward projects across the broadest spectrum of disciplines, individuals can participate in only one application of the NFRF Exploration grants stream at a time, as either an NPI, co-PI or co-applicant.

Other research team members, such as trainees (graduate and other students, postdoctoral fellows, etc.) and research personnel (research associates, technicians, etc.), can participate in the project's research activities, but are not invited as participants through the Convergence Portal.

Early career researcher

A proposal is considered to be led by early career researchers (ECRs) if both the NPI and co-PI (if applicable) are ECRs. An ECR is a researcher within five years from the start date of their first research-related appointment, minus the length of any eligible delays in research (e.g., illness, maternity, parental), as of the first day of the month in which the competition is launched (April 1, 2026, for this Exploration competition).

Subject matter (fit to program)

Exploration grants support projects that are high risk, high reward and interdisciplinary. They may involve any disciplines, thematic areas, approaches or subject areas eligible for funding across the three agencies. Eligible projects include those with specific short-to-medium-term objectives, as well as discrete phases in longer-range research programs.

To meet the minimum requirement to be considered interdisciplinary, a proposed research project must combine elements from at least two different disciplines (as defined by a group-level classification based on the [Canadian Research and Development Classification](#)). Projects that integrate two disciplines with a long and established tradition of working together (e.g., biology and chemistry or psychology and education) may satisfy the above requirement but not meet the expectations of the program. The onus is on the applicant to explain the novelty of the interdisciplinary approach to justify the fit to program. Interdisciplinarity is evaluated by the multidisciplinary review panel.

The following elements are indicative of projects that do not meet program expectations for high risk, and are considered ineligible: research that is the obvious next step; data collection without interpretation of underlying mechanisms or patterns; professional practice or consulting services (contract research); set-up and operational management of an institute or a formal or informal group of researchers (network); curriculum development; organization of a conference or workshop; digitization of a collection or creation of a database; application of existing technology or commercialization of a product/process; routine analyses; and/or acquisition and maintenance of research equipment

For more information: [Visit the New Frontiers in Research Fund – Exploration web page](#)

Call for proposals: Partnership Engage Grants

Proposal deadline: September 15, and December 15, 2026

Value: \$10,000 to \$50,000

Duration: 1 year

Partnership Engage Grants are expected to respond to the objectives of the [Research Partnerships program](#).

These grants provide short-term and timely support for partnered research activities that will inform decision-making at a single partner organization from the public, private or not-for-profit sector. The small-scale, stakeholder-driven partnerships supported through Partnership Engage Grants are meant to respond to immediate needs and time constraints facing organizations in non-academic sectors. In addressing an organization-specific need, challenge and/or opportunity, these partnerships let non-academic organizations and postsecondary researchers access each other's unique knowledge, expertise and capabilities on topics of mutual interest.

SSHRC welcomes applications involving [Indigenous research](#), as well as those involving [research-creation](#).

For tools and resources to assist in the planning and implementation of your partnership, see SSHRC's [Partnerships Tool-Kit](#).

Types of partnerships

Following are some possible formal partnership approaches. Applicants are in no way limited to these approaches and are welcome to combine some of the features described below.

- Cross-sector co-creation of knowledge and understanding: Partnerships to foster innovative research, training and the co-creation of new knowledge on critical issues of intellectual, social, economic and cultural significance.
- Partnered knowledge mobilization: Partnerships designed to synthesize, apply and mobilize new and existing social sciences and humanities research knowledge in accessible ways to build institutional capacity and to increase the national and international impact and stature of Canadian research.

Joint initiatives

SSHRC collaborates with organizations from across the not-for-profit, private and public sectors to support and promote training, research and connection activities in the social sciences and humanities. SSHRC's joint initiatives are designed to reflect its strategic objectives and mandate, inform decision-makers, and, in certain cases, address specific needs of its partners.

The following joint initiatives are associated with this funding opportunity:

- [Mitacs Accelerate—Grants](#)

For more information: [Visit the SSHRC Partnership Engage Grants web page.](#)

Call for proposals: Destination Horizons Grants 2026

Proposal deadlines: **September 22, 2026**

Value: Up to \$15,000

Duration: 1 year

Destination Horizon Grants support researchers affiliated with eligible Canadian postsecondary institutions to build capacity, foster existing partnerships, and further develop networks and/or consortia with European Union (EU) and other [associated countries](#)' researchers, with the ultimate goal of applying to [Horizon Europe](#)—Pillar II calls for proposals.

Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding program for research and innovation, with a budget of €95.5 billion. It offers significant opportunities to access new knowledge, partners, markets, customers and suppliers. In November 2023, the Government of Canada closed substantive negotiations with the European Commission to join Horizon Europe as an associated country under Pillar II: Global challenges and European industrial competitiveness. While Canadians could previously participate in all Horizon Europe calls that were open to international partners, they would have had to largely secure their own funding to participate in a given project. With associated country status, Canadians can now access funding directly from the EU.

Destination Horizon Grants proposals are expected to respond to the objectives of the [Research Partnerships program](#).

Destination Horizon Grants are not intended to support implementation of Horizon Europe projects. Instead, the grants support activities between researchers that facilitate:

- disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary exchanges;
- scholarly exchanges;
- intersectoral exchanges between academic researchers and practitioners from the public, private and/or not-for-profit sectors; and/or
- international research collaboration and scholarly exchanges between researchers affiliated with Canadian postsecondary institutions and researchers, students and non-academic partners from the EU and other associated countries.

Matching funds

SSHRC will not fund the full cost of any Destination Horizon Grant. Additional support in the form of eligible cash contributions equivalent to 100% of the amount requested from SSHRC must come from the host institution.

Applicants must demonstrate their ability to secure at least the minimum matching funding. Applicants must do so by including a letter of support from the host institution that clearly confirms the amounts and types of contributions the host is providing.

Applicants can draw on complementary funding from SSHRC research grants and/or from other research funding agencies, but must make clear in their budget proposal there is no duplication of financial support for the same budget expenses. While such funds can be used in this complementary way, these funds cannot be counted toward the requirement for matching funds.

Subject matter

Most SSHRC funding is awarded through open competitions. Proposals can involve any disciplines, thematic areas, approaches or subject areas eligible for SSHRC funding. See the guidelines on [subject matter eligibility](#) for more information.

Projects whose primary objective is to conduct research activities (e.g., literature reviews, field work, data collection, interviews, etc.) are not eligible for funding under this funding opportunity.

Applicants

Applications can be submitted by an individual researcher or a team of researchers (consisting of one applicant and one or more co-applicants and/or collaborators).

Applicants must be affiliated with a Canadian postsecondary institution that holds institutional eligibility at the time of application. Researchers who maintain an affiliation with a Canadian institution that holds institutional eligibility, but whose primary affiliation is with a non-Canadian postsecondary institution, are not eligible for applicant status.

Webinar

To learn more about the application process, applicants are invited to listen to the webinar recording from the previous competition. The recording is available in [English](#) and in [French](#).

For more information: [Visit the Destination Horizons Grants web page](#)

Thinking of applying for any of these opportunities?

Please [click here](#) to fill out our Proposal Notice of Intent (NOI) form.

Please contact the [Office of Research Services](#) and we will assist you in the development of your proposal.

Note that the principal investigator for any grant application submitted through Royal Roads University must be a core faculty member at RRU.

Questions about your author rights, publishing, or promoting your research?

Contact [Cassandra Larose](#), Scholarly Communications Librarian, phone: 250-391-2600, ext. 4324.

Questions about your data management plan?

Contact [Rebekah Prette](#), Librarian, Business Information and Data Services, phone: 778-247-4135.

Spotlight

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Research: Gender Diversity Training Workshop

Join RRU and [TransFocus](#) for an upcoming workshop focused on building understanding and awareness of gender diversity. This session will explore common misconceptions about trans and non-binary people, including examples of questions, assumptions, and expectations that can unintentionally cause harm, and how we can avoid them.

Register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/PRNFNZR> for one of two sessions:

1. Tuesday, June 16 | ⌚ 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
2. Wednesday, June 17 | ⌚ 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A calendar invitation will be sent to you when you register. We look forward to seeing you there.

Call for papers: Studies in Clinical Social Work: Transforming Practice, Education and Research – Special Issue

Abstract deadline: June 30, 2026

Full manuscript deadline: March 15, 2027 (by invitation only)

You are invited to contribute to a special issue of *Studies in Clinical Social Work: Transforming Practice, Education and Research*, an official peer-review journal of Smith College School for Social Work. This Special Issue will feature a collection of scholarly work that aims to advance Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in social work education, practice, and research.

[Special Issue Overview](#)

This special issue explores the integration of UDL across social work education, practice, and research. Grounded in principles of accessibility, inclusion, and equity, UDL offers a proactive framework for designing learning environments that anticipate learner variability and reduce barriers to participation. The issue aims to advance the knowledge base on inclusive pedagogy in professional education, highlighting how UDL principles can inform curriculum design, teaching practices, field education, and institutional cultures. It will also outline advances in UDL in social work practice across human, health, and social service contexts, alongside new developments and discoveries in UDL research. Collectively, the contributions will demonstrate how UDL can strengthen social work's commitment to social justice and support the full participation of all learners.

Summary of anticipated article topics:

- New and reconsidered conceptual and theoretical applications of UDL
- Empirical studies evaluating the impact of UDL-informed teaching on student engagement and outcomes
- UDL and field education: redesigning practicum experiences for accessibility and inclusion
- Co-designing UDL-informed learning environments with students and communities
- Faculty development initiatives that build UDL capacity among social work educators
- UDL-informed approaches to online, hybrid, and technology-enhanced learning and practice environments
- Institutional & policy approaches to advancing UDL through accreditation, curriculum reforms, and PD
- Research and/or implementation science on UDL in social work practice settings
- Case studies of program redesign or implementation in social work education and/or practice using UDL

Led by Guest Editors **Drs. Ami Goulden** (School of Social Work, Memorial University), and **Tracy Smith-Carrier** (School of Humanitarian Studies, Royal Roads University), this special issue will highlight leading innovations and applications of UDL across social work practice, education, and research.

Submission Processes

You are invited to submit an abstract (maximum 400 words) to [Ami Goulden](#) or [Tracy Smith-Carrier](#) by **June 30th, 2026**. Questions about the special issue may also be directed to these email addresses.

Authors will be notified of abstract decisions, along with editorial feedback where applicable, in September 2026.

If invited to submit a full manuscript:

- Manuscripts are due by **March 15, 2027**, and will undergo a masked peer-review process.
- Full-length manuscripts are expected to be between 6,000 and 8,000 words, including references. Shorter submissions (Teaching, Research, or Practice Notes) should not exceed 15 pages, including references and all other materials. Please review and follow the journal guidelines carefully.
- Manuscript will be submitted through the Taylor & Francis' Scholar One portal.

We anticipate that the special issue will be published in Winter 2028.

About the Journal

[Studies in Clinical Social Work: Transforming Practice, Education and Research](#) was formerly known as Smith College Studies in Social Work. Founded in 1930, the journal has contributed significantly to the development of clinical knowledge, having published manuscripts by a wide range of influential social work thinkers and practitioners. Continuing its leadership in and commitment to advancing the field of clinical social work, Studies in Clinical Social Work: Transforming Practice, Education and Research is a refereed journal that serves as a forum for clinicians, social work educators, practicum instructors, and researchers to share high quality work that critically engages and advances knowledge and practice of clinical social work.

Call for papers:

International Public Policy Association – 14th Interpretive Policy Analysis Conference

Paper submission deadline: June 12, 2026

Conference information: Universidade de Brasília, Brazil
November 9-11, 2026

Topic: IPA2026BRP03 - *Using Interpretive Policy Analysis to Amplify Silenced Voices, Promote Resistance and Mobilize Social Movements against Undemocratic Rule*

Chair: Tracy Smith-Carrier

Some suggest we are seeing a rupture in global relations and a retreat from the rules-based international order ([World Economic Forum 2026](#)), including the liberal democratic orientation that prevailed over the past few decades ([Matlosa 2025](#)). Others contend, however, that the neoliberal global order has always been infused with colonial, imperialistic, and anti-democratic tendencies (see, for example, [Smith-Carrier and Dionne, In Press](#)). Still, recent events suggest that authoritarian populist leaders are increasingly dominating the global (and many domestic) political arena(s), seeking to control and shape the ideologies and narratives therein, particularly with the explosion of post-truth politics ([Braun and Dodge 2018](#)). With the rise of authoritarian leadership, voices of dissent are typically quashed, and not uncommonly, criminalized ([Di Ronco and Selmini 2024](#)). Contributions to this panel explore: How can IPA be used to analyze democratic backsliding, authoritarian governance, and the criminalization of dissent?

In considering the rise of geopolitical conflicts and tensions, the retreat from climate objectives, and the omnipresent drive to extract more of the world's resources, the panel invites submissions responding to: How can IPA illuminate the policies, practices, and processes of extractivism, weak climate governance, and/or territorial conflicts, particularly considering competing narratives, legitimacy, and knowledge hierarchies?

Social movements over the past few decades have sought to hold political and private actors accountable for historic and ongoing injustices, including colonial land grabs and the exploitation of Indigenous Peoples (Idle No More, Land Back), poverty, unemployment, and income disparities (Occupy, Yellow Vests, Arab Spring), gender and racial inequities (MeToo, Black Lives Matter), and climate destruction (Extinction Rebellion, Fridays for Future). Many of these movements have captured global media attention yet have not brought about the transformative changes advocates and activists have longed to see (see [Bevins 2023](#)).

This panel asks: What role can interpretive research play in supporting social movement strategies, coalition-building, and the mobilization of broader constituencies for change? In relation to action plans and change strategies, the panel also considers: How can IPA be applied to promote Indigenous or subaltern approaches to resistance and changemaking, including Indigenous resurgence, self-determination, consultation/consent struggles, and resistance to homogenizing state governance? Furthermore, how can interpretive research advance insurgent democratic experiences and community governance alternatives, locally and/or globally?

Given the privileging of certain knowledges and knowledge systems, particularly from (colonial) leaders in the global North, intersectional voices have often been excluded and/or silenced. This panel seeks to explore: What role can IPA play in amplifying intersectional voices and perspectives in resistance efforts, and how can interpretive research highlight everyday practices of solidarity, mutual support, and conviviality? Moreover, are there methodological and/or ethical reflections to consider when conducting interpretive research in contentious settings, especially in relation to material and embodied ways of expression?

For more information and to submit a paper: [Visit the IPA 2026 conference web site](#)

Questions about anything in the Research e-bulletin? Contact the [Office of Research Services](#)