

The Research Portal Newsletter

THE INAUGURAL ISSUE

Welcome to the first issue of the Research Portal Newsletter (a name that will likely change).

Produced monthly, the intent of this newsletter is to communicate changes to the Portal as it progresses through its pilot implementation and to highlight particular projects currently seeking partnerships within the platform. Each of these featured projects has been approved for public communication by the community partner.

As connections start forming and research begins, expect to see updates from projects, articles celebrating research outcomes and other information.

Some Definitions:

Community:	Any non-academic organization, possibly individuals, including but not limited to First Nations, not-for-profits, local governments, and private firms.
Student:	Advanced undergraduate or graduate (Masters or doctoral) student affiliated with a recognized university which adheres to a publicly available Research Ethics Review process.
Faculty:	Professor or other research-oriented staff member affiliated with a recognized university which adheres to a publicly available Research Ethics Review process.

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH PORTAL?

The Research Portal was first conceptualized in 2016 as part of a postdoctoral fellowship grant application to the Mitacs Elevate program with the support of Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants and Sustainable Archaeology @ Western. Once awarded, postdoctoral fellow Dr. Joshua Dent began working on the technical design and community networking necessary to realize a test version of the Portal.

The Portal Pilot Project is a free listing service for community-based research opportunities which originate from an non-academic organization's own research objectives. This listing is provided to institutional researchers (faculty, graduate students, direct studies, etc.) to encourage research partnerships capable of achieving both academic and non-academic research goals.

Community-based, participatory research is nothing new. Conventionally, this research is initiated by academics approaching non-academic individuals and organizations with more or less fully formed research projects which these communities review and then choose whether or not to participate. The Portal inverts this process by instead querying and listing community-sourced projects that can be adapted to academic research. Interested researchers contact designated community liaisons who then decide if the researcher is the right fit for their project.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Featured Projects
 - Indigenous Trails
 - Historical Representation
 - Repatriation Model
- Featured Quotes From:
[Community-Based Archaeology by Sony Atalay](#)



SCOPE OF THE PILOT PROJECT

The objective of the pilot project is to gather and present a list of heritage-related, community-sourced research projects to History, Geography, Indigenous Studies, and Anthropology Departments in SW Ontario universities. Graduate students and faculty will use the list to contact and define a relationship with these communities for the purposes of conducting research capable of achieving both academic and community goals. The Portal's effectiveness can then be judged to assess the benefits of expanding the service to other disciplines and regions.

We are starting with heritage projects because these correspond with our backgrounds and the original scope of the Mitacs fellowship. Should the Portal prove worthwhile, it is very likely that it will expand to include projects from other Social Science and Humanities disciplines in the near future. Stay tuned!

“Community-Based Participatory Research also requires that scholars and communities develop equitable partnerships. Their projects must be community-driven and must address concerns that matter to members of descendant and local groups” - [Sonya Atalay](#)

PROJECT:

INDIGENOUS TRAILS IN THE LONDON AREA

Project Partner: [London Heritage Council](#)

Working with the staff of the London Heritage Council, the researcher will undertake the relocation of Indigenous trails in the London, Ontario area and assist in the design and delivery of appropriate commemoration including interpretative signage and an online exhibition. The researcher will be expected to coordinate their research efforts with local First Nations.

Type:

Directed Learning; Masters

Suggested Disciplines:

History; Geography; Indigenous Studies

[Learn More](#) (login required)

HOW IT WORKS

Academic institutions (departments and research centers) are given privileged, password protected access to a list of community-sourced research projects to encourage community-based research at the directed learning, graduate student and faculty levels.

Once given access to this private list, interested researchers proceed through the following steps:

1. Review - Browse the list for projects of interest
2. Connect - Contact the liaison of a project to request to participate
3. Research - Based on pre-agreed research conditions, research commences
4. Disseminate - Based on pre-agreed research conditions, outcomes are communicated

Communities posting a project have a different Step 1 (Listing) but Steps 2-4 are same.

The project list contains all active projects available for collaboration. To add a project to the list, a community contacts Portal Administration (jdent3@uwo.ca) and together they draft the details and resources attached to a project. Projects can be large (requiring multiple coordinated researchers) or small (providing a single example or field site for a graduate student or undergraduate coursework). This list will be updated regularly.



Sustainable Archaeology

PILOT PROJECT SUPPORT

The Research Portal is developed in partnership with [Sustainable Archaeology](#) and [Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants Inc.](#) under a [Mitacs](#) Elevate postdoctoral fellowship:



**Timmins Martelle
Heritage Consultants Inc.**

Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants embraces the respectful conservation of Ontario's cultural heritage, working in partnership with municipalities, public and private organizations, First Nations communities and other stakeholders,

scholars and the general public. Through public outreach and the responsible recovery of remnants of the past, it is our goal to foster pride in our shared multi-cultural past and preserve its stories for future generations within the process of building for our future.



Sustainable Archaeology is a collaborative initiative between the University of Western Ontario, in London, Ontario, and McMaster University, in Hamilton, Ontario, advancing a sustainable form of archaeological practice and research.



Mitacs builds partnerships between academia, industry, and the world – to create a more innovative Canada. Mitacs Elevate is a postdoctoral fellowship with a customized research management training component.

PROJECT:

RECONCILIATION AND REPRESENTING HISTORICAL FIGURES

Project Partner: [Museum of Ontario Archaeology](#)

In cooperation with the Museum of Ontario Archaeology, the researcher will address how museums can represent prominent historical figures in a manner sensitive to the objectives of contemporary reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Referencing primary documentation housed at the Museum, the researcher will design and coordinate an exhibit about this issue with respect to prominent figures from the Museum's past.

Type:

Masters

Suggested Disciplines:

Anthropology; History; Indigenous Studies

[Learn More](#) (login required)

PROJECT:

SIX NATIONS OF THE GRAND RIVER REPATRIATION MODEL

Project Partner: [Six Nations of the Grand River Land Use Unit](#)

Working with the Six Nations of the Grand River Land Use Unit and traditional knowledge keepers, the researcher will undertake the repatriation to Six Nations of human remains housed at the University of Toronto, assisting to finalize a series of negotiations between Six Nations and the University. In the course of completing this task, the researcher will critically assess the repatriation process and develop a model set of procedures that can be applied to other instances of repatriation.

Type:

Masters; Doctorate

Suggested Disciplines:

Anthropology; Archaeology; Indigenous Studies

[Learn More](#) (login required)

DON'T HAVE A LOGIN?

Students can contact your department to see if they are participating in the Pilot Project.

Departments interested in participating can contact Josh Dent (jdent3@uwo.ca) to subscribe.

Listing and reviewing projects is a free service during the pilot phase. As the Portal evolves we will be exploring various funding models with the intent to keep some form of free project listing.

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Visit www.insituated.com/research-portal or contact Josh Dent (jdent3@uwo) to arrange a department /university information session.

COLLABORATION TIPS: ALTERNATIVE FUNDING

When working with a non-academic organization, particularly not-for-profits and charities, explore alternative sources of grant funding not otherwise available to academic researchers alone such as the [Ontario Trillium Foundation](#).

Researchers should be prepared to write the bulk of these alternative grant applications on behalf of their partner community organization, should they approve.

CONNECT: PURPOSEFUL NETWORKING

The Research Portal provides communities, organizations and individuals a means to advance their own ideas to researchers. Interested researchers then connect with these community elements and negotiate the terms of research and the associated desired outcomes.

As the Portal evolves, so will the potential for connections between urban institutions and rural communities that may currently have only sporadic contact, if any at all.

Researchers currently working with communities will obviously continue to do so, but the potential benefits these relationships effect can be distributed much more widely the more communities are empowered to reach out and initiate these partnerships.

“Pooling resources is not simply about money or labor; it involves community knowledge and the recognition that such input is valuable and necessary for an effective research project.” - [Sonya Atalay](#)

INTRODUCTION: DR. JOSHUA DENT

Given that it's the first issue and since one of the primary objectives of the Portal is the fostering of relationships, *we* should slip in first-person and *I* should introduce myself.

My name is Joshua Dent and I am the postdoctoral fellow behind the Research Portal. My research focus is Canadian provincial archaeological policy, heritage legislation, and Indigenous engagement in cultural resource management ([Learn more](#)).

I am a licensed Professional Archaeologist in Ontario with 11 years of practical and research-based cultural resource management experience. I have supervised commercial work in Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and the Yukon. I am a co-founder of the [Archaeologist's Almanac](#), Chair of the [London Heritage Council](#), resource member on the [City of London's Advisory Committee on Heritage \(LACH\)](#), and member of the LACH Archaeological Sub-Committee.

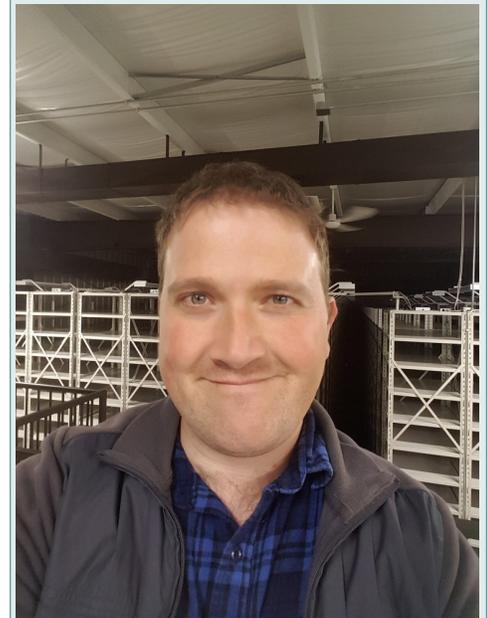
I am originally from [Prince George](#), British Columbia and I currently live and work in [London](#), Ontario with my partner, Kerry, and our two girls, Cecily and Iris.

My motivations behind creating the Portal were to try and address capacity and connectivity deficits I encountered during my doctoral research. Too often did I hear about the great research ideas of non-academic heritage personnel who had neither the resources (often time) nor the networks to pursue their insights beyond periodic reflection. Insights, which if realized, could contribute to the betterment of their organizations, communities and disciplines.

This description doesn't capture who I am entirely but it does do a decent job, I think, of outlining some of the basic information that may be of use to you, the reader, in this context.

When researchers contact community liaisons looking to participate in a project, they should include something similar in their letter of introduction. This provides the community with some of the information (background, motivations, etc.) they might need to draw conclusions about who to work with.

Make sure to consider your audience when constructing these introductions!



NEXT ISSUE:
More Featured Projects
Notes on Dissemination
Feature Article on Collaborative Research

The Research Portal

www.insituated.com/research-portal

E-mail: jdent3@uwo.ca

WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

Communities - Projects are currently being accepted for disciplines related to heritage studies (Anthropology; Archaeology; Geography, History; Indigenous Studies). Contact us by email (jdent3@uwo.ca)

Researchers - Contact your department (Social Sciences and Humanities departments) to see if they have an account.

Institutions - To get an account contact Josh Dent (jdent3@uwo.ca) with your department name and primary contact information.

Newsletter Quotes From:

Atalay, S. *[Community-Based Archaeology: research with, by and for Indigenous and Local Communities](#)*. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA, 2012.

