

The Research Portal Newsletter

FALL PROSPECTS

Welcome to the second issue of the Research Portal Newsletter. This issue will focus on the projects currently listed on the Portal as we double our efforts to find interested academic researchers.

As Fall progresses and the new year approaches, we hope university departments and faculties will unlock some of the potential the Portal offers to new and existing students.

There is no shortage of community interest in participating in this program, to the point that we have had to dial back our outreach until we have a sufficient grasp on how and when the Portal is being used by interested researchers from academia. As a new cohort of graduate students apply, we encourage supervisors to review the project listings to see where research interests align.

We also encourage feedback, from all participants, about how we can make the Portal more accessible and when are the best times to communicate the projects we are promoting.

Incoming masters and doctoral students in 2018 have a remarkable opportunity in the Portal to realize collaborative projects which could be foundational to their long-term career prospects and their relationships to organizations operating outside of the academy.

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 a 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:

[Essentials of Community-based Research by Vera Caine and Judy Mill](#)



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.

“The broadest definitions of community-based research include an understanding that the research is grounded in community, serves the interest of the community, and actively engages citizens.”
- [Vera Caine and Judy Mill](#)

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.

Start date: 2017/2018

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. Ask your department about access to the Portal!

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; Information Studies

[Learn More](#) (login required)

PROJECT:

SOURCES, PATHWAYS AND RISKS OF CONTAMINANTS IN SOURCE WATER AT CHIPPEWA OF THE THAMES FIRST NATION – THAMES RIVER WATERSHED

Project Partner: [Chippewas of the Thames First Nation Lands and Environment Department](#)

Working with the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (COTTFN) Lands and Environment Department and the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), the researcher will theorize and possibly assist in developing a testing regime capable of assessing the impact of agricultural runoff, industrial effluents or environmental contaminants affecting areas of the Thames River watershed related to the COTTFN's potable water supply. Applying the latest research in water contamination and related hydrological studies, the researcher will co-develop a sustainable testing model to inform and assist policy development and processes related to water management.

Type:

Masters/Doctoral

Suggested Disciplines:

Geography

[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)

PROJECT:

MODIFIED FAUNAL REMAINS OF THE DORCHSETER SITE

Project Partner: [Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants](#)

In cooperation with Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants, the researcher will conduct a quantitative analysis of modified faunal remains within the Dorchester Site Collection. Potential analyses include species, modification type and spatial distributions. It is anticipated that the researcher and the community will coauthor an article about the results of research in an appropriate journal.

Type:

Masters

Suggested Disciplines:

Archaeology

[Learn More](#) (login required)

DON'T HAVE A LOGIN?

Departments/faculties/supervisors interested in participating can contact Josh Dent (jdent3@uwo.ca) to subscribe. Students can ask their department to contact Josh for access.

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.

WHY RESTRICT ACCESS?

First and foremost, restricting access to the listings is intended to provide communities with a basic form of researcher screening, although we still encourage all involved to independently assess who they are corresponding with.

As the Portal develops, we will revisit the balance between privacy and accessibility, in consultation with community partners, as we try to best deliver on the potential of this service.

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: MEET FACE-TO-FACE

When working with communities and non-academic organizations, particularly Indigenous communities, collaborators should meet in-person whenever appropriate. Researchers should be prepared to travel to a community or organization. Having a physical presence in an office or community is an important aspect of developing long-term relationships.

Researchers, don't be afraid to offer non-academic collaborators tours of your other primary research locations such as campuses, laboratories, archives, etc.

Mutual appreciation of the circumstances and environments your collaborators, whether academic or non-academic, operate within can foster more robust relationships and even generate unconventional research approaches.

DISSEMINATE: CAPACITIES FOR COMMUNICATION

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. One avenue available to communicate these outcomes is through the Portal's Outcome Pages.

Despite growing interest in community-based research, the means, and even the need, to communicate findings to wider audiences sometimes gets lost in the shuffle. A consistent refrain we have heard from community organizations is a lack of capacity to communicate research outcomes beyond immediate participants.

By helping to design and host non-technical research outcome pages directed at wider audiences, the Portal facilitates this broader translation and communication of research.

“Community-based research is an approach to research that values authentic partnerships with community members. The generation of knowledge relevant to the community and attention to building the capacity of community partners are fundamental tenets of this approach.” - [Vera Caine and Judy Mill](#)

NEW PARTNER: MISSISSAUGAS OF THE NEW CREDIT FIRST NATION

PROJECT:

SMITHSONIAN REPATRIATION

Project Partner: [Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation](#)

Working with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation (MNCFN), the researcher will conduct the research and reporting necessary to apply to the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) for the repatriation of Dr. P.E. Jones-affiliated collections. The researcher will also carry out a needs assessment of existing and proposed local conservation capacities based on the conservation requirements of objects requested to be repatriated.

Type:

Masters/Doctoral

Suggested Disciplines:

Anthropology; Archaeology; History; Indigenous Studies; Information Studies

[Learn More](#) (login required)

PROJECT:

ARCHAEOLOGY GIS PLATFORM

Project Partner: [Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation](#) - Consultation and Accommodation Department

Working with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation's (MNCFN) Department of Consultation and Accommodation, the researcher will populate a GIS platform with existing data from archaeological sites in MNCFN traditional territory. The researcher will conduct an environmental scan of other Indigenous community heritage GIS applications and, together with department staff, theorize/design/train best practices for the use and maintenance of this information.

Type:

Masters

Suggested Disciplines:

Archaeology; Geography; Information Studies

[Learn More](#) (login required)

NEXT ISSUE:
More Featured Projects
Collaboration Tips

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; Information Studies, etc.). 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:

Caine, V., and J. Mill. [Essentials of Community-based Research](#). Routledge, New York, 2016.

About the Newsletter:

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.



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