New International Research Networks Award 2017 Report*

Award Overview

The New International Research Networks award was initiated in 2017 as a new award program supported by the Office of the Vice-President (Research). The award aims to promote new collaborations between researchers from Western and their international colleagues. As the rate of growth of human knowledge continues to increase, we have reached an era of necessary hyper-specialization in which international collaboration is an increasingly fundamental enabler of world-class research. Creating opportunities for researchers at Western to interact with colleagues from around the world is of critical importance to our research mission.

The New International Research Networks award program provides up to $5,000 to eligible Western Researchers for establishing new international collaborations. These funds are intended to address the logistical costs incurred during the initial process of setting up a collaborative research project such as travel, communications costs, and/or small scale exploratory research.

Awarded Research Funding

In 2017 (from February to September), Western faculty submitted 5 applications for funding from this program. The total program budget for FY2017 was set at $15,000 (since this was a new program and we had no history of average application rates, the budget was tentatively set at this amount). Five research grants were successful and the total awarded for these grants was $23,245. The average grant amount awarded was $4,649.

5 grants = $23,245

Five New International Research Network awards were awarded to faculty in the following disciplines: psychiatry (1), business (1), psychology (1), philosophy-linguistics (1), and modern languages and literature-film studies (1).
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

NIRN program research collaborations include the following international organizations (and area of research):

- **Mexico**: The National Autonomous University of Mexico (Neuroscience)
- **Ghana**: University of Ghana (Linguistics)
- **Germany**: Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg (Psychology)
- **Switzerland**: University of Zurich (Film studies)
- **India**: National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences (Psychiatry)

SUMMARY OF WESTERN FACULTY PROJECTS

Research Projects Awarded

1. **Aksuya Vasudev**, *Yoga and consciousness in current times: Trumping spirituality over materialism across India and Canada* ($5,000). **International collaboration**: India
   
   **Research area**: Integrative medicine including yoga and consciousness studies

2. **Lucas Monzani**, *The physiological correlates of leader character and its influence on power and economic behavior* ($5,000). **International collaboration**: Mexico
   
   **Research area**: Psychobiology and neurophysiology

3. **Jessica Grahn**, *The causal role of neuronal oscillations in beat perception as revealed by noninvasive brain stimulation* ($4,750). **International collaboration**: Germany

   **Research area**: 1) Brain-physiological correlates of cognitive processes such as attention, memory and perception using electroencephalography (EEG), magnetoencephalography (MEG), functional magnetic resonance tomography (fMRI), EEG neurofeedback, eye tracking, neural network simulations and psychophysics. 2) The influence of transcranial alternating current stimulation (TACS) on oscillatory brain activity and whether certain cognitive processes can be modulated by influencing certain frequency bands of brain activity.

4. **Robert Stainton**, *Collaborations in linguistics with University of Ghana School of Languages* ($3,495). **International collaboration**: Ghana

   **Research area**: Linguistics and philosophy

5. **Constanza Burucúa**, *Latin America in the film festival circuit: Images and ideas in flow* ($5,000). **International collaboration**: Switzerland

   **Research area**: Film studies - transnational cinemas, world cinema

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

*Note this is a preliminary report of the program. Final reports for New International Research Network awards are to be submitted three months after the end date of the award. Award outcome data will be available after final reports are submitted.*