



AREAS OF RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Mobilize for Impact! :: 2022-2027

Introducing Areas of Research Activity at Western University

Western's researchers, scholars, and artists seek to understand the world in which we live and to examine the role the academy plays in society. They contribute to the sum of human knowledge, preserve it, connect it to communities, and pass it down to future generations.

This is the role of the university – to maximize human understanding and better society.

These efforts advance knowledge that underpins societal progress by allowing us to scrutinize the past and present, while informing the future. They enable us to learn about learning, about ourselves, and about teaching. And they allow us to engage with issues related to policy, leadership, governance, social infrastructure, and the role of the public intellectual.

The breadth of these contributions underpins, traverses, and transcends the five areas of research activity identified in this document.



A Sustainable & Resilient Future

Environmental sustainability, the promotion of healthy ecosystems, and the capacity to protect ourselves from extreme environmental events present some of the most significant challenges of our time.

Home to unique facilities, excellent scholars, and collaborative research groups, Western provides new ideas and solutions to address a full range of questions related to climate change, our planet's health and sustainability, and the social, political, educational, economic, and practical dynamics of environmental disaster mitigation.

Western's contributions to foster a sustainable & resilient future include :

- Addressing the role of climate change on sustainability, food production, and health
- Advancing equitable sustainability policy, practice, education, and communication
- Contributing to the sustainable use of resources, including for renewable energy and storage systems
- Developing resilient infrastructure and policy
- Producing clean water and water systems

A Just & Equitable Future

Western's researchers, scholars, and artists have long led efforts to promote equity and justice, enabling them to connect their work to communities and to help create stronger institutions, cultures, and societies.

By applying broad interdisciplinary approaches, our community contextualizes and addresses historical wrongs and provides evidence and education to inform and update policies, laws, and structures that serve as barriers to marginalized groups.

Western's contributions to foster a just & equitable future include:

- Addressing societal issues, policies, and laws related to gender and sexual orientation, disability, anti-Black racism, and Indigenous experiences
- Contextualizing our world through migration, ethnic relations, and transitional justice
- Ensuring health equity and social justice
- Promoting violence prevention and policy, particularly for women and children
- Reducing poverty and inequality

A Technology-Informed Future

We live in an increasingly technology-dependent time, which offers opportunities to develop new tools, materials, treatments, and knowledge. It also raises critical questions about the ethical and practical implications of how these technologies affect societies – today and for the future.

From leveraging the potential of big data and the digital humanities, to developing new innovations and understanding the implications of artificial intelligence; and to developing new technologies for exploring the Earth, Moon, Mars, and beyond, our community develops novel technologies and interrogates their presence in society.

Western's contributions to foster a technology-informed future include:

- Creating novel materials, biomaterials, and smart materials
- Developing new technologies for exploring Earth, Moon, Mars, and beyond
- Producing innovative smart systems, robotics, and wearable devices
- Ensuring a socially responsible use of technology
- Interpreting data and its role in democracy and society

A Creative Future

From research, scholarship, and intellectual contributions about art, literature, and music, to musical performance and the creation of visual arts, and other forms of creative activity, our community provides important context about historical and contemporary civilisations, while contributing directly to cultural activities all around us.

These efforts help us understand how cultures travel the globe, how they change within societies, and how they influence our education and daily lives.

Western's contributions to foster a creative future include:

- Creating cultural artifacts, events, and performances that establish, share, and communicate culture
- Collecting, curating, exploring, reflecting on, and understanding current and past cultural artifacts and performances
- Engaging communities through the public humanities
- Exchanging intercultural understanding, including in the context of colonialism, postcolonialism, and decolonization
- Integrating digital and technological approaches to understanding human history



Western Research

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