

# RESEARCH BULLETIN

MAY 3, 2021

For more information on any of the Research Bulletin items, please contact [research@msvu.ca](mailto:research@msvu.ca)

## VIRTUAL EVENTS AND WEBINARS

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### **[FINAL REMINDER]** Research Spring Training 2021

Research Spring Training 2021 will take place virtually on **Tuesday, May 4 from 9:00am to 3:00pm.**

What topics will be covered?

- Research Data Management
- Grant writing tips
- Best practices for mentoring students
- How digital tools can expand your research
- The NS Quality of Life Initiative

All event details are outlined in the document attached, including speakers and session information. Please RSVP to Jessica Long at [Jessica.Long1@msvu.ca](mailto:Jessica.Long1@msvu.ca) and indicate if you would like to attend the full day or specific sessions.



### **[NEW]** Dimensions Town Halls on Thursday, May 6

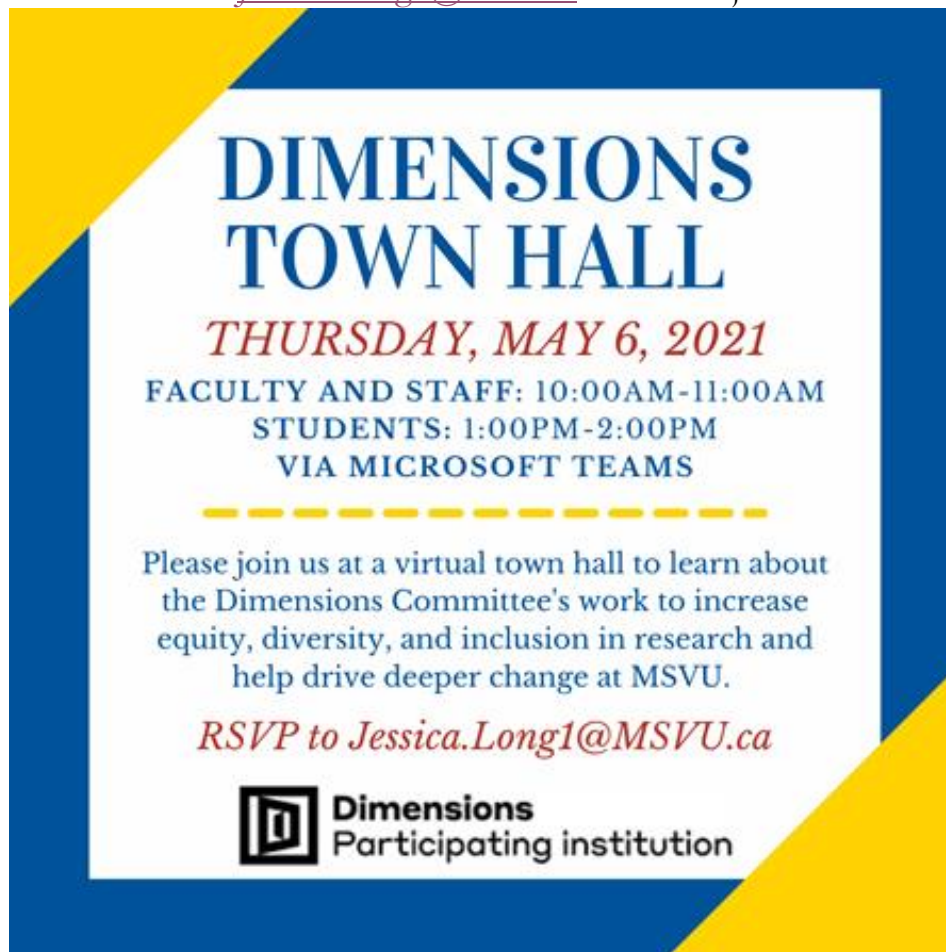
The Dimensions program's objective is to foster transformational change within the research community at Canadian post-secondary institutions by increasing equity,

diversity and inclusion (EDI) in research.

Join us on **Thursday, May 6** to learn about the MSVU Dimensions Committee's work to drive deeper change in research at MSVU.

- Faculty and Staff: 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Students: 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Please RSVP to [Jessica.Long1@msvu.ca](mailto:Jessica.Long1@msvu.ca). A link to join the session will then be shared.

A promotional poster for a virtual town hall. The poster has a white central area with a blue border and yellow triangular accents in the corners. The text is centered and reads: 'DIMENSIONS TOWN HALL' in large blue letters, followed by 'THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021' in red. Below that, it lists the times for faculty and staff (10:00AM-11:00AM) and students (1:00PM-2:00PM), and notes that the event is via Microsoft Teams. A dashed yellow line separates this from the main description: 'Please join us at a virtual town hall to learn about the Dimensions Committee's work to increase equity, diversity, and inclusion in research and help drive deeper change at MSVU.' The RSVP information is given as 'RSVP to Jessica.Long1@MSVU.ca'. At the bottom is the logo for 'Dimensions Participating institution', which consists of a square icon with a stylized 'D' and the text 'Dimensions Participating institution' to its right.

### **[NEW]** Indigenous Research Survey on Behalf on AAEDIRP

The Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program (AAEDIRP) has requested assistance in the development of a survey of

Indigenous researchers and research taking place in post-secondary institutions across Nova Scotia.

AAEDIRP is a unique research program formed in 2007 through partnerships between the member communities of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat, the Inuit of Labrador, 15 Atlantic universities, and 3 government funders. The main purpose of the AAEDIRP is to work with Aboriginal communities

to improve the knowledge base concerning Atlantic Aboriginal economic development in order to improve the lives of Aboriginal people in the region.

To assist AAEDIRP with this survey, please send the following information to Jessica Long at [Jessica.Long1@msvu.ca](mailto:Jessica.Long1@msvu.ca) by **Monday, May 10:**

- Name:
- Department:
- Research area:
- Have you previously engaged in research with an Indigenous focus and/or with an Indigenous community? Please explain.

This survey can include MSVU researchers who have not previously engaged in research with an Indigenous focus and/or with an Indigenous community but have an interest in doing so.

The Research Office at Mount Saint Vincent University is committed to supporting and promoting research by and with Indigenous peoples. MSVU has a strong commitment to supporting Indigenous students and researchers and collaborating with Indigenous communities – a commitment that is embodied in a diversity of initiatives across University people, programs, infrastructure and policies.

### **[NEW]** [Upcoming ACENET Training in Research Computing](#)

The following training sessions are being offered by ACENET **beginning May 4th**. They are open to researchers and students across all disciplines, as well as industry. All sessions are online.

#### **Programming Workshop: Unix Shell, Version Control and R**

*4, 11, 18 and 25 May, 12:00-4:00pm Atlantic*

This is a beginner level workshop series that is hands-on, covering the fundamentals of R, including data types, conditional statements, loops and functions, as well as program design, version control, data management, and task automation. Participants will be encouraged to help one another and to apply what they have learned to their own research problems. The goal is to teach the practical knowledge needed to start programming, debugging and using R in everyday tasks.

[DETAILS & REGISTER](#)

#### **Programming Workshop: Unix Shell, Version Control and Python**

*6, 13, 20 and 27 May, 12:00-4:00pm Atlantic*

This is a beginner level series that is hands-on, covering the fundamentals of Python including data types, conditional statements, loops and functions, as well as program design, version control, data management, and task automation. Participants will be encouraged to help one another and to apply what they have learned to their

own research problems. The goal is to teach the practical knowledge needed to start programming, debugging and using Python in everyday tasks.

[DETAILS & REGISTER](#)

## **Introduction to High Performance Computing (HPC) with ACENET & Compute Canada**

*11 May, 10:00-11:30am Atlantic*

This is a beginner session. Researchers across many disciplines use HPC to tackle analyses that would be either inefficient or impossible on a desktop. This session offers: a basic description of the infrastructure and support accessible through Compute Canada and ACENET, with entry-level advice about how to begin; an overview of the software packages available through Compute Canada and ACENET for applications, data analysis, and software development, and how to request specific software relevant to your work; and insight into the potential of parallel computing to accelerate your analysis.

[DETAILS & REGISTER](#)

## **Introduction to Linux**

*12 May, 10:00-11:30am Atlantic*

This workshop is designed for those with no prior experience in working with a terminal interface. To access and use the ACENET and Compute Canada HPC clusters from your desktop, you will use a text-based "command line" interface. You will use the command line to move data around and run calculations. In this session, learn how to get started with the command line and how to perform some basic tasks: create and navigate directories for your data; upload and download files; manage your storage; and run programs on the computing clusters.

[DETAILS & REGISTER](#)

## **Introduction to Shell Scripting**

*13 May, 10:00-11:30am Atlantic*

This workshop is designed for both new and experienced users. You'll learn how to use the command line to carry out repetitive tasks, extract information from files quickly, combine commands in powerful ways, and capture a workflow so you can re-use it easily. Save time, reduce errors, and use Linux more effectively. Prerequisite: ACENET Basic Series Introduction to Linux, or previous experience with Linux.

[DETAILS & REGISTER](#)

## **Job Scheduling with Slurm**

*14 May, 10:00-11:30am Atlantic*

This workshop is designed for either new HPC users, or for experienced users either transitioning to Slurm or seeking to improve efficiency with the scheduler. Compute

Canada's national systems use a job scheduler called "Slurm". In this session you will learn how Slurm works and how it allocates jobs, helping you to: minimize wait time by framing reasonable requests; ask for only the resources you need, to improve efficiency; increase throughput; run more jobs simultaneously; and troubleshoot and address crashes. Prerequisites: Completion of Introduction to Linux and Introduction to Shell Scripting, or prior experience with both.

[DETAILS & REGISTER](#)

### **Parallel Computing School**

*17, 19, 31 May; 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 June, 2:00-4:00pm Atlantic*

Topics include general parallel computing, Dask, Machine Learning, OpenMP programming, GPU accelerator programming, and Message Passing Interface (MPI) covered over 12 online sessions. Each two-hour session will include a lecture and learning exercises. These will be oriented to those learners seeking a more advanced experience. There will be online office hours each week so participants can ask questions about the course content and exercises. The course is aimed at researchers and innovators, both academic and industrial. The school is designed for participants familiar with the Linux command line and who have some level of programming experience. Completion of the ACENET Basics Series, or equivalent experience, is strongly recommended.

[DETAILS & REGISTER](#)

### **[NEW] NDRIO Town Halls Invitation**

You are invited to participate in virtual Town Halls hosted by NDRIO. The Town Hall events are intended to inform the needs assessment NDRIO is conducting. If the dates below aren't suitable for your schedule, please note that there will be other opportunities to contribute to the needs assessment. **If you aren't able to attend, but would like to contribute, please let me know.**

<https://engagedri.ca/canadian-digital-research-infrastructure-needs-assessment/virtual-town-halls>

**Please note that you must register online to attend. Instructions to register are in the link above.**

The theme for May 5, Governance and Policy, may be of particular interest to this group. All interested stakeholders and members of the research community are welcome.

The participants in the Town Halls will have a meaningful opportunity to share their insights and concerns with NDRIO at a time when NDRIO is considering what activities to prioritize and how to structure its operations. Your expertise and

perspective, along with those of your colleagues, will be valuable contributions to the discussion.

### **[NEW]** MSSU Keeping up with the KT Session 4: The Science and Practice of Patient Engagement

The Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit (MSSU) is excited to share that registration for Session 4 of our new capacity development webinar series, *Keeping up with KT* is now live! I am reaching out in hopes that your organization and/or department would again be able to help spread the word by sharing this information and promotional poster with your network (attached). Each session of the series will touch on both the science and practice of KT and will highlight researchers and organizations in the Maritimes. The webinar series will be of interest to key stakeholders across the health care community including health care professionals, patients/caregivers, trainees, policy-makers, and researchers.

Please see below for details and registration link:

#### **Session 4: The Science and Practice of Patient Engagement**

**Date:** Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Time:** 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

**Platform:** Zoom Webinar

**Presenter(s):**

Dr. Caroline Jose, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the Université de Sherbrooke and Health and Patient Engagement Researcher, MSSU

Louise Tardif, Patient Partner, MSSU

[Register here](#)

### **[NEW]** Invitation to StatCan's joint event with Atlantic Provinces Economic Council

The Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC), together with Statistics Canada is presenting a joint virtual event: **COVID-19 in Atlantic Canada – One Year Later: A Conversation with Chief Statistician Anil Arora.**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 12th, 2021

**Time:** 10:00-11:00 AM AT

**Location:** Virtual (via Zoom link).

[Register here](#). Please note simultaneous French translation and sign language interpretation will be available during the event. You will receive a calendar invite with the Zoom link a few days prior to the event.

The event will feature a fireside chat between the Chief Statistician, **Anil Arora** and President & CEO of APEC, **David Chaundy**. The discussion will focus on three themes, all with an Atlantic regional lens:

- COVID-19 regional impact and economic recovery;
- How Statistics Canada supported Canada's pandemic response; and
- The vital role of the census for data and decision-making.

The event is open to all Government of Canada employees and the general public.

Space is limited! Registration will remain open until the day of the event, or as soon as spaces fill-up. We look forward to your participation.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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### [NEW] 2021 Atlantic-IMN Kausattumi Grants Program

The 2021 Kausattumi Grants Program deadline has been extended until **May 14th, 2021 at 5:00 pm Atlantic**. Please see attached a poster that outlines this deadline extension. The call for applications and application forms reflecting this deadline extension can be found [here](#). Please contact Tara White at [tara.white@dal.ca](mailto:tara.white@dal.ca) if you have any questions.

### [NEW] Call for Expression of Interest: DHW Research Funding Opportunity

Funding is available to Nova Scotia researchers for addressing the following question: **What has been the impact of reduced access to gambling products in the past year on gambling behaviours in Nova Scotia?** Details of this opportunity can be found after the link: [Call for Expression of Interest: DHW Research Funding Opportunity – Research Nova Scotia \(researchns.ca\)](#)

### Funding Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program

Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI) will launch their [Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program](#) in mid-April. This program gives Nova Scotia companies the opportunity work with universities and access expertise they do not have in-house.

Projects must demonstrate how they improve productivity, develop a new product, service or process and create growth. This is a two-tier program: a Tier 1 application are for up to \$15,000, Tier 2 applications are up to \$25,000. First time applicants must submit a Tier 1 request. No cash contribution is required from the company.

The companies must be registered in NS with the majority of their workforces in the province. If you have a company that you are interested in working with and feel the Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program could be a good fit, please contact **Danielle Goodfellow**, Industry Liaison Officer, at [danielle.goodfellow@smu.ca](mailto:danielle.goodfellow@smu.ca) to discuss the proposed project.

### **[FINAL REMINDER]** 2021 President's Special Conference Fund

Please find attached the call for applications and application form for the **2021 President's Special Conference Fund**.

Applications are invited for funding up to \$5000.00 to assist faculty members and departments in hosting a conference on campus and/or virtually. The goal of the President's Conference Fund is to support initiatives that advance the goals of MSVU's Strategic Plan: *Strength Through Community (2021-2028)*. Evidence of active and meaningful student involvement in the conference is required. Priority will be given to:

- conferences that help raise the profile of the University in the external community.
- conferences held on campus or designated as being hosted by MSVU for virtual conferences.
- first-time applicants.

The conference must take place within 2 years of the awarding of the funding. Applications should be submitted to the Committee on Research and Publications at [research@msvu.ca](mailto:research@msvu.ca) no later than **15 May 2021**.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **[NEW]** CIHR Delegates Update from Dr. Derek Fisher

As the University Delegate to CIHR for MSVU, I am pleased to bring you updates from the monthly delegate meetings. Below is a summary of some of the major CIHR news from the April meeting.

- The Tri-Agency EDI Action Plan was released in April and can be viewed at: [Tri-Agency Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan](#)
- CIHR launched a new video series called "Ask a Scientist". In the first video, Dr. Michael Strong, President of CIHR, answers a question that has been in the media in recent months and has persisted online in some social media circles: Was the COVID-19 vaccine research rushed? This 7-minute video is [now available online](#).



- CIHR, as well as NSERC & SSHRC, continue work to develop the Tri-Council Grants Management Solution (TGMS). This new platform will eventually replace the individual grant platforms used by the individual funding institutions. Part of this process is consideration of a Bio-profile to replace the Common CV. Keep your eyes peeled for opportunities to engage in this process.

If you would like to discuss these more, or to provide feedback you would like me to bring to CIHR, please feel free to reach out or attend one of the monthly drop-in sessions I will be holding.

### [NEW] New Research Resources Video

Check out the new video on Research Procurement presented by Melanie McIsaac, Manager, Procurement Services, on the ResearchResources SharePoint page. View the video [here](#).

### [NEW] Was the COVID-19 vaccine rushed?

Dr. Michael J. Strong, President of CIHR, answers this question in the first video of CIHR's new Ask a Scientist series. Check out the video [here](#).

### [NEW] CANARIE Website Launch!

[Click here](#) to explore the new website.

### Portage Launches DMP Assistant 2.0!

The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) Portage Network is pleased to announce the launch of [DMP Assistant 2.0](#). Hosted by the University of Alberta Library, the DMP Assistant is a national, open, bilingual data management planning (DMP) tool to help researchers better manage their data throughout the lifespan of a project. The tool develops a DMP by prompting researchers to answer a number of key data management questions, supported by best-practice guidance and examples.

Version 2.0 has several new features and benefits, including:

- The ability to 'clone' DMPs for use in similar projects
- The ability for institutions to create more flexible DMP templates both in terms of institutional customization as well as enhanced template development functions such as cloning, use of phases, and themes, and working from a range of new discipline- and methodology-specific templates
- New usage statistics dashboards for institutional administrators

Version 2.0 also features enhanced bilingualism, supported by recent upgrades to the original [DMP Roadmap](#) codebase in collaboration with the [Digital Curation Centre](#)

(DCC). These upgrades will improve internationalization and multilingual support not only for the DMP Assistant, but for other instances of the DMP Roadmap codebase globally. Portage and the University of Alberta Library DMP Assistant team also employed professional translation services, with subsequent expert validation, to help ensure an enhanced and truly bilingual service.

### FREYA – The power of PIDs

Check out [this video](#) on the power of PIDs. This video was made for the FREYA project. Visit <https://www.project-freya.eu/en> for more information.

### [REMINDER] UN Sustainable Development Goals

MSVU is interested in framing research around the UN Sustainable Development Goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>). There are several advantages to doing so: it provides a narrative framework to communicate the “big picture” for some of MSVU’s research; it makes it easier for community partners to find faculty members working on the same problem; it is likely going to become an important piece when applying for Tri-Council grants.

We are encouraging faculty to indicate whether they are willing to be listed as working towards one (or more) of the goals and, if so, including the appropriate SDG logo(s) on their faculty webpage and listing them in a public database of researchers organized by the goals on the MSVU Research Office website. We are also happy to work with faculty to determine which goal(s) best fits their research. Please contact [Jessica.Long1@msvu.ca](mailto:Jessica.Long1@msvu.ca) if you are interested.

Please find more information on the SDGs on the MSVU website [here](#). The UN SDG logos can be found [here](#).

## MSVU RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

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### [NEW] MSVU Research Minutes (Winter 2021)

Thank you to MSVU faculty members who contributed to the MSVU Research Minutes video series this term! Catch up on videos you may have missed: <https://bit.ly/2VosLcO>. If you would like to contribute to the series, please contact Jessica Long at [Jessica.long1@msvu.ca](mailto:Jessica.long1@msvu.ca).

### [NEW] Dr. Marnina Gonick award The Muriel Gold Visiting Professorship at McGill University

Dr. Marnina Gonick, Professor of Education and Women's Studies at MSVU, has been awarded The Muriel Gold Visiting Professorship at the Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies at McGill University. Congrats! Learn more [here](#).

## IT&S CYBERSECURITY TIPS

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### **[NEW]** International Password Day: May 6, 2021

Why not try a password manager for International Password Day on Thursday May 6? Password managers help you secure your accounts by maintaining unique and strong passwords for every website and system you use. For more on password managers, check out [our Password Managers webpage](#).

Please do not click on any links in such emails and forward them to the IT&S Help Desk at [helpdesk@msvu.ca](mailto:helpdesk@msvu.ca). Learn more about phishing on the [IT Security site](#).

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