

# Connaught PhDs for Public Impact Fellowship Program

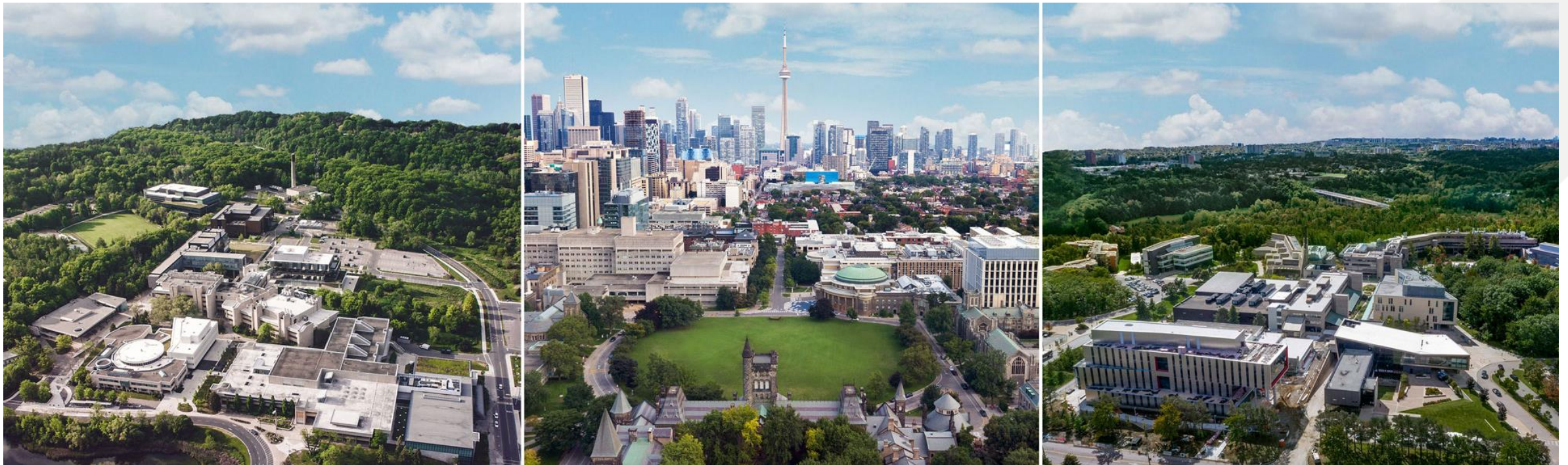
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Presented by:

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Council of Graduate Schools



# Program Goals

- Build accessible pathways between the university and the public that prepare doctoral students for a variety of careers
- Create partnerships so that research, scholarship, and creative practice can better serve the needs of the public
- Make scholarship more accessible to increase its impact
- Showcase how graduate studies contributes to our broader society

## What is Public Impact?

The key to defining public impact is explaining the societal benefit and relevance of the work to a general audience.

Spans science and technological innovation, such as artificial intelligence, to cultural innovation, such as art and social movements, with the goal of societal benefit.

# Examples of Public Impact

## Social & Cultural Innovation

— work that positively influences culture and society (e.g., art, literature, social movement, understanding civilizations)

## Reconciliation & Social Inclusion

— work that forwards our goals of repair with Indigenous communities and other disadvantaged groups (e.g., facilitating goals of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, creating systems of anti-oppression and anti-racism)

## Community-Engaged

— work that addresses important questions that are of relevance to and done in partnership with our communities (e.g., working with a non-profit, working with newcomer groups)

## Global Scholarship

— work that has the potential to have impact beyond our local communities or brings diverse global work to our local setting (e.g., ethnography of Indigenous communities across the globe, multi-site studies)

## Social Responsiveness

— work that is critical to the key questions of today (e.g., mental health, racial disparities, climate change, COVID-19 research)

## Technological Innovation

— work that harnesses technology to transform our systems (e.g., artificial intelligence, clinical devices)

## Fundamental Basic Discovery

— work that helps us understand basic elements of our world better (e.g., neuroscientific discovery, theoretical physics and mathematics)

## Transdisciplinary/Interdisciplinary

— work that breaks down disciplinary boundaries to better address questions (e.g., clinical computational neuroscience, mixed methods research designs)

## Public Policy

— work that influences social, economic, local and global policies to transform different sectors of society (e.g., agricultural policy, foreign policy, law, government relations)

# Program

## Fellows Receive

- Cohort experience for 15 students involving specialized skills training in public scholarship
- Networking and mentorship opportunities with fellows, public figures, public and private institutions, and the media
- Funding (\$12,500) to do innovative and impactful research, scholarship, and creative practice

## Personal Impact

- New opportunities for connection to the public and other fellows
- Intellectual stimulation that comes from discussing topics from a variety of perspectives
- Sense of purpose that comes from translating inquiry to have a greater impact.



# Our Fellows Say



**Tenzin Butsang, Department of Public Health Sciences**

“I’m looking forward to developing the tools to build sustainable and reciprocal relationships with community collaborators.”

**Project:** “Blood Runs Thick and Long and Forever”: Stories on Parenthood and Incarceration



**Margaret MacDonald, Faculty of Information**

“My hope is that clear, compelling, and evidence-based research outputs will contribute to the sea change already underway: one that recognizes sex work as work.”

**Project:** Pornhub and Platformization: Technological Influences on Pornography, Labour, and Policy



**Peter Serles, Department of Industrial and Mechanical Engineering**

“Scientists have a duty to the public to translate their basic research into widescale impacts and explain why it is so critical. But this is often the hardest part of research and is often skipped over.”

**Project:** Engineering the Neural Stem Cell Niche Using Nano-3D Printing

# Program Development and Structure

- **Jointly sponsored** by SGS and the Office of the Vice President, Research, Innovation, and Strategic Initiatives
- **Leverages existing strengths** within the university
  - public intellectuals as mentors and educators
  - central communications team
- **Provides focal point** for professional development programming that is available to all graduate students

# Our Cohort of 2022-23 Connaught Fellows



- The Connaught PhDs for Public Impact Fellowship Program was officially launched on September 21 with an event at Massey College at the University of Toronto.
- This program is supported by U of T's Connaught Fund, the largest internal university research funding program in Canada.
- Connaught also supports: Connaught Global Research Impact Program; Connaught Community Partnership Research Program; Connaught Fund for Globally Connected Challenge in Black Research.