



SPARK: A CENTRE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH INNOVATION

2021-2022 Annual Report



Spark: a centre for social research innovation connects researchers to the people, skills and tools needed to stand at the forefront of social research innovation.

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Through partnerships, training, and consultation, our mission is to engage with researchers and the community to expand methodological boundaries.

1. Centre Overview

Spark: a centre for social research innovation focused this, our third year of operation on becoming a consistent, reliable ally in social research to faculty, graduate students and the broader community.

Two years of rapid growth and experimentation led to a strong core array of services for researchers and two fully operational social enterprises.

Our range of services and supports means we can help with just about any social research challenge. A researcher wanting to partner with a private company to access sensitive data can engage with [SEAL](#) to help. A team trying to figure out how to code a thousand interviews collaboratively can consult the archive of a Spark Talk on [Qualitative Team Coding](#). A PhD student can both work quietly and build a sense of community in the [CoLab](#). These are just a handful of examples of the wide range of ways we support the research community. We are extremely proud of the range and value of research supports we provide.

The Spark team has transitioned this year to match our focus on sustainability. We have trimmed down our student team to focus support and prioritized core staffing. A major staffing change involved the retirement of Lars Nielsen who managed SEAL. Hiring a new full time manager for SEAL and gaining stability and excellence in our administrative support were essential to our sustainability focus for the year. As of September 2022, our team will consist of 11 people including staff, students, and faculty, down from 18 at the height of our growth period in Spring 2021.

This has notably smoothed operations. We are so proud of our team, their work ethic, drive, and creative initiative, which is the main contributor to Spark's success.



This year, Spark:

- Officially became a Core Research Platform at McMaster University
- Received approval to launch a new series of certificates in social research available to the broader community with limited pre-requisites
- Hosted leading experts in addressing the issues that emerge when researching and classifying issues of identity and demography. We built 3 in-depth workshops as part of our Identity in Research Series
- Deepened our accessibility, bringing on a student accessibility lead to help us improve our website and video archive and seeking funding to do an accessibility audit of our physical space
- Hit a funding milestone where 50% of Spark's overall costs were covered by profits from our social enterprises and grants
- Continued offering Research Consultations, administering FSS Qualtrics licenses, and partnering with researchers on new initiatives
- Deepened partnerships with 7 not-for-profits, helping them better measure and communicate their impact as part of our Brighter Spark Applied Research
- Supported 12 research teams in accessing secure data through SEAL
- Held weekly virtual talks by researchers from around the world doing interesting work in interesting ways. These Spark Talks have generated tremendous interest both live and in the video archives.

"It's a special experience to build a new centre. We have tried so many things, crashed into more than a few walls, and achieved so much more than we could have imagined. In year 3, we fully see the outline of what Spark can be and the profound impact it can have. It inspires us every day. "

- Allison A. Van



2. Priorities & Objectives

Spark has continued to develop/refine our understanding and approach to methodological research challenges and apply this knowledge within our programming and research support services. We continue to reinforce collaborative, interdisciplinary research through group programming, 1:1 consultations, support, and community projects.

In 2020-21, we recognized that our core services and the support we offered should be thought of along two dimensions. With our 2021-2022 school year Open House, we officially introduced the idea of Social Research Toolkits – a means of grouping the wide array of research methodologies and approaches practiced across the social sciences. They are divided along the following lines –

Social Research Toolkits:

1. Foundational qualitative and mixed methods
2. Empowerment, engagement, and community-based research methods
3. Foundational quantitative methods
4. Advanced computing and statistics
5. Addressing complexity and uncertainty
6. Research quality including ethics, data and project management, and effective teams
7. Supporting evidence-based decision making in policy and social service practices

As we continue to expand the range of our services and supports, we are increasingly classifying all our work, talks, research conversations, partnerships, etc. by toolkit. We believe this will prove valuable in understanding the interests and emerging priorities within social research that will allow us to stay nimble and responsive.

Our Work:

As the range of social research methods are the focus for what we support, the nature of our support falls in three categories: 1) Training; 2) Research Support; and 3) Catalyzing Innovation.

1) Training

Our goal is to bring the best of methodology to the challenge of understanding and responding to social dilemmas in ways that are innovative and transformative. Our training supports research-oriented students, faculty taking on new methods/approaches, and policymakers and practitioners wanting to integrate the collection and interpretation of evidence into how they do their work.

2) Research support

We seek to serve the needs of all social researchers with an ever-growing body of knowledge and services, both by curating, building, and maintaining excellent research tools and facilities, and by providing custom support and services.

3) Catalyzing innovation

We seek to be a place within the Faculty of Social Sciences and the university where those committed to harnessing the power of social research to help build a brighter world can come together, learn from each other, explore crazy ideas, and grow in community.

3. Staffing & Governance

Centre Leadership

Michelle L. Dion (BA, University of Texas & MA/Ph.D., University of North Carolina), Professor of Political Science and Senator William McMaster Chair in Gender & Methodology, serves as Spark's Academic Director (2020-2025). She has a strong record of interdisciplinary research at McMaster, focusing on public policy, cross-national public opinion, and the sociology of social science and drawing upon a range of qualitative and quantitative evidence and methodologies to advance our understanding of political and social dynamics. In addition, she has over 20 years of experience teaching research design and quantitative methods in the social sciences, including as a visiting instructor in the University of Michigan Inter-University Consortium for Social and Political Research (ICPSR) Summer Program.



Michelle L. Dion, Academic Director

Michelle has continued to oversee the design, development, and delivery of academic programming while assisting with Spark's administration and ongoing creative growth.

Michelle will be on research leave from July 1st 2022 – December 31st 2022. While on leave, spark is thrilled to announce that Lisa Kaida will be serving as Acting Academic Director. She joins

us from the Department of Sociology. Lisa is the Vice President of the Canadian Population Society (2022-2024) and specializes in the social and economic integration of immigrants and refugees. Lisa brings a wealth of relevant experience and expertise to the role, and we are so excited to have her!

Allison A. Van (BS/BA, University of Washington & MPP, Harvard University), Executive Director, joined Spark (formerly CRESS) in July 2019. Allison specializes in mixed-methods complex systems analysis, community/academic partnerships, and the translation of research into social change. Her career has traversed sectors and disciplines, including extensive work in agricultural and rural development, poverty, child welfare and juvenile justice, social entrepreneurship, and medical innovation. In addition, she brings to McMaster significant research experience working with community organizations and in program evaluation.



Allison A. Van, Executive Director

Over the past academic year, Allison has continued to take the lead in building and expanding the centre's team, research support capacity, research conversations, consultations, training, marketing, educational opportunities, and more. In addition, Allison has acted as a mentor to Spark's student team while offering them hands-on opportunities to engage in community-based research with key stakeholders, community groups, faculty and teams.

Risa (Lisa) Kaida (BA & PhD, University of Toronto, MA University of Tokyo), Associate Professor in Sociology, joined Spark as Acting Academic Director while Dr. Dion was on research leave in July 2022.

Lisa is the Vice President of the Canadian Population Society (2022-2024) and specializes in the social and economic integration of immigrants and refugees.



Lisa Kaida, Acting Academic Director

During her appointment, Lisa is building an assessment of the data sets currently available within SEAL and the potential for data linkage or other expansions of their value. She is also leading a collaborative effort to make Qualitative Data Analysis software more readily available.

Centre Governance

As a Senate-approved Centre, Spark reports to its Governing Board, which is Chaired by the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, **Dr. Jeremiah Hurley**, who is also Professor and former Chair in Economics. Other Board Members include **Dr. James Dunn** (Professor and Chair of Health, Aging & Society and Senator William McMaster Chair in Urban Health Equity), **Dr. Tina Fetner** (Professor and Chair of Sociology), and the Associate Dean, Research in Social Sciences, currently **Dr. Tony Porter** (Professor in Political Science and Acting Associate Dean Research, Social Sciences).

Drs. Hurley and Fetner chaired the original working group that developed the core vision for the Centre, and Dr. Dunn was a member.

During this year, we have also built an Advisory Committee which will meet twice a year, beginning in November 2022 to provide input regarding Spark's scholarly priorities and strategic directions for the 2022-23 academic year. We are thrilled to announce the final committee membership as: **Bradley Ruffle** (Economics), **Cliff van der Linden** (Political Science), **Jay Brodeur** (McMaster Library/Sherman Centre), **Andrea Zeffiro** (Communications/Sherman Centre), **Melanie Heath** (Sociology), **Judy Fudge** (Labour Studies), **Adrienne Xavier** (Indigenous Studies/Anthropology), **Katherine Hesson-Bolton** (Student Success Centre). We are grateful to have input from such a diverse group, and would like to thank the committee for their commitment and time.

Centre Staff

Spark has been profoundly fortunate to have the expertise of **Lynn Holland** guiding our Administrative Team. Lynn retired from McMaster after a long career serving as an Administrative Assistant to three Deans in DeGrootes School of Business and Executive Officer within the Faculty of Humanities, and came back to help build Spark. In addition, **Equity Burke**, who also works at the Gilbrea Centre, has been an enthusiastic addition to our team, including a key role in coordinating our communications with the McMaster community.

A big thanks to **Lars Nielsen**, who led the SEAL Lab. Lars has retired as of June 1st 2022 and we wish him all of the best in his retirement. We are excited to announce SEAL's new Lab Manager, **Lily Wang**. Lily has a background in Physics and Computer Science and is passionate about data security, fair use and Research Data Management. They came to us from Brock University.

In 2021-2022, undergraduate and graduate students also worked with Spark to implement our programming, training, research support, knowledge mobilization/communications and marketing at McMaster. The students conducted work doing website development, accessibility, videography, event coordination, applied statistics, community engaged research and co-developing curricula. The Spark team included Ph.D. Students in Social Work, Sociology, and Engineering, and Undergraduates in Arts & Sciences, Economics, and Science Communications. Spark's team of student employees is critical to our success, and we have been honoured to work with such talented and creative individuals.

Centre Staff



Lily Wang, Manager SEAL

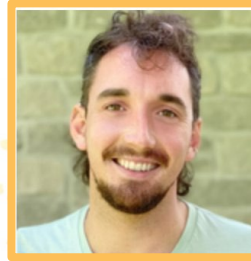


Lynn Holland,
Administrative Assistant



Equity Burke,
Administrative Support

Brighter Spark Student Team



Jeff Black, Social Work



Novera Shenin, Arts & Sciences



Parmida Soltani, Economics

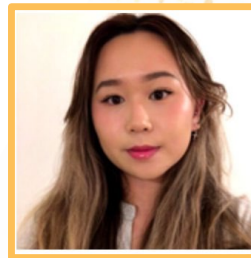


Mohamed Fathalla, Engineering



Rochelle Wijjesingha, Sociology

Communications Student Team



Celine Keomany, Science
Communications (Webmaster)



Jacob Sloots, Life Science
(Accessibility Specialist)

4. Educational Programming & Training

Identity in Research

Each year, Spark selects a topic that we believe is challenging for social researchers across disciplines and requires a range of skills to do well. We then find exceptionally talented researchers and bring them to Mac to do intensive workshops on a skill they have mastered related to our topic.

For 2021-2022, Spark launched the Identity in Research series which engaged with research on systemic social disadvantage. This series showcased the innovative ways to capture and discuss identity, including the complex ways in which identities are intersectional and situational. Our goal with this series was to help social scientists effectively engage with diverse social identities and approaches to demography within their research.

The public lectures combined with workshops for McMaster students, fellows, faculty, and research staff were free to attend, and archived on Spark's MacVideo page after the event. Given COVID-19, some of the events were hosted virtually, while others in-person with limited registration to allow for social distancing.



Identity in Research

2021-2022 Research Innovation Series



Session 1: Algorithmically Encoded Identities

with Google's Ethical AI Team

Identities in Research

19/11/2021

“Algorithmically Encoded Identities” by Google’s Ethical AI Team: Alex Hanna, Dylan Baker and Emily Denton. A two-part virtual workshop which included an introductory talk discussing the ways in which classification is an infrastructure and technology of power, and a second hands-on session which includes three exercises which interrogate existing classification practices (Nov and Dec 2021 – 12 attendees).



White Supremacy and Statistical Regression Models

with Dr. Mosi Adesina Ifatunji

Identity in Research

18/03/2022

“Quantifying Individual Identities” by Mosi Ifatunji. This session included a 1-hour public talk titled "White Supremacy and Statistical Regression Models" in a hybrid (zoom/in person format) and full day workshop “Addressing Identity and demography in Survey Research”, which took place in person and addressed the ways researchers are using census and publicly available datasets can measure and analyze concepts of race, ethnicity, and intersectional identities. (March 2022 – 36 attendees)



“Arts-based Approaches to Exploring Identity” by Carla Rice and Ingrid Mundel.

Their public talk “Difference reimagined through digital world-making” and full day workshop “The Work of Stories in the World” took place at McMaster University and attendees had the opportunity to explore the power of arts, and especially story, to open up conversation about systemic (rather than individual) injustices in health care, education, arts and other sectors. (April 2022 – 13 attendees).

In total over 60 faculty, students and staff attended the series. This was an order of magnitude less than previous series and aligned with experiences of those offering extra-curricular educational opportunities across campus. Based on this, for 2022-2023, we have altered the Research Innovations Series to be a series of one-hour talks with supplemental materials. We hope to return to the more intensive workshop approach in future years as ability and interest in engaging with new material re-emerges.

Short Course: Qualitative Data Analysis in NVivo



In January 2022, Spark kicked off the New Year with a workshop led by Dr. Noelle Wyman-Roth of Duke University's Social Science Research Institute. The workshop took place over 3 days (Jan 5th-7th) from 9am-12:30pm. It provided foundational training on skills in NVivo

including how to setup a project, work with multiple data types, best practices for coding and collaboration, as well as using more advanced features to ask complex questions of your data.

The workshop hit full capacity with 30 registrants with others waitlisted. This demand showcased the desire for future offerings related to this topic, including the potential for a repeat offering in 2022-23.

Short Course: Interviewing to Measure Impact

Led by Spark's Executive Director, Allison Van. This 4-day workshop took place on Feb 22-25th 2022 from 9am-12pm. It explored an approach to interviewing that allows for precise pre-and post-measures while being trauma-informed, conversational, and safe for participants. Its goal was to assist with the never easy task of measuring impact for those who implement programs and policies.

The workshop was very well-received. Registrants included community partners from Grenfell Ministries, Green Shield and Banyan Community Services as well as others from the social sector or academia. In total, the workshop hit capacity with 14 participants.

Spark Talks

After our acclaimed "Productivity During Pandemic" weekly seminar series, Spark decided to make a long-term commitment to weekly interdisciplinary research talks. So for the 2021-2022 academic year, we kept the format but renamed the series Spark Talks. Spark Talks began in Fall 2021 with weekly virtual seminars by researchers across social research disciplines and topics who were doing interesting work or using innovative methods. We have conceived it as a "grab-bag" featuring researchers speaking about methods across the full range of methodological toolkits, to help those participating see and celebrate the range.

Each session lasts for fifty minutes including question and answer sessions which allowed for continued discussion and engaging conversation. Some of the most popular Spark Talks included:

Transparency and Positionality in Team Coding
 Speaker: Dr. Victoria Reyes

McMaster University | Spark: a centre for social research innovation

Spark Talks 29/10/2021

Illuminating the Future Through an Equity Lens
 with Dr. Jewlya Lynn and Dr. Jen Heeg

McMaster University | Spark: a centre for social research innovation

Spark Talks 08/10/2021

Policymaking Gone Viral
 with Dr. Annelise Russell

McMaster University | Spark: a centre for social research innovation

Spark Talks 10/08/2021

Over the last academic year, more than 20 scholars from around the globe presented their research. Recorded videos from each of the seminars are archived on Spark's [MacVideo Channel](#) for future access and viewing.

Spark is excited to re-launch Spark Talks in Fall of 2022. Planning is already in the works for another academic year full of informative sessions by talented researchers.



5. Research Support & Activities

Research Conversations

At Spark, we have expertise in a wide array of qualitative and quantitative methods and can help turn research ideas into clear plans. In addition, we can:

- Help refine research question(s);
- Make connections to other researchers or appropriate resources,
- Identify relevant methods, tools, and software,
- Advise on data management/storage
- Offer short courses around particular skills and software, as well as training and coaching for research teams.
- Advise on knowledge mobilization and communication

Given the overwhelmingly positive response from last year, Spark continued to offer 4 hours of free consultation/support to any social research at McMaster or in the community, made possible by the ongoing generous support from the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Support not only involves advisement for researchers on methods and tools but also, as appropriate, directing them to appropriate state of the art facilities and equipment in the

Faculty of Social Sciences and around the University.

Between May 2021 and April 2022 Spark held research conversations with 18 faculty members, graduate students, staff, and community researchers. Every Faculty at McMaster had researchers take advantage of Research Conversations.

Brighter Spark Applied Research

To raise funds and advance our mission, Spark established a fee-for-service consultancy called Brighter Spark Applied Research (BSAR). BSAR offers game-changing, custom, applied research and evaluation services to community organizations, filling a much-needed gap in expert applied research support that marries academic rigor and practicality.

This year, we launched the new Brighter Spark Applied Research Apprenticeship for Students, which allows students to become an active member of the Brighter Spark Team, engage in unique training opportunities, practical research experience, leadership, creativity and action orientated impact. This Apprenticeship allows students to work directly with and for clients and apply their research skills to pressing social problems. In its inaugural year (2022), Spark welcomed 2 Applied Research Apprenticeship Students – Moyosore Sogaolu (PhD Student, Economics) and Kaitlyn Battershill (MSc Student, Cognitive Science of Language).

While our primary focus is on service to the community, we have come to see the tremendous impact that being part of Brighter Spark has had on our student team members. We are excited to continue providing direct experience to the next generation of applied researchers.

“The nature of the work is beyond traditional ideas of research within academia, it includes knowledge dissemination and engagement in activities. It’s part of research, but the goals are to engage in a ripple effect outside of the research institution, and ultimately to develop a strong commitment of translating research approaches into action orientated impact in our community.”

– Jeff Black, Brighter Spark Team Member

All Brighter Spark Projects are led by Allison Van, who oversees project management and student training in applied research by directly engaging them in centre projects.

2021-22 Community Partners:



Lawson Ministries Hamilton

Salvation Army Lawson Ministries enhances social inclusion for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. We worked with them on their Community Access to Transit program.



Green Shield Canada is a large Canadian insurance provider that provides grants that strengthen and expand mental health

services. Our work with them is in partnership with ARMS (Advanced Research on Mental Health and Society) led by Dr. Marisa Young and focuses on common measurement of the impact of the mental health grants they provide.

Grenfell MINISTRIES



Grenfell Ministries offers harm reduction programs for those who have experiences with addiction or incarceration. It is an innovative, peer-to-peer program that supports people in a client-driven, non-judgmental way. We work with them on building the infrastructure to measure their impact and build an evidence-base for this approach.



Banyan Community Services is a not-for-profit organization that serves three sectors: youth in

conflict with the law, children and seniors/adults with disabilities. Brighter Spark works with them on building an evidence-base around the impact of the SURE program as an early intervention for adolescents and their families that are struggling.



YWCA-Hamilton and several other organizations that provide employment services in Hamilton have been engaged in a pilot

program to embed Occupational Therapists in their programs to support participants in building skills and competencies that support sustainable employment. We have been working with them to assess the existing evidence and build a plan to do more intensive research.



Black Women’s Visions is a project of The AIDS Network of Hamilton, Halton, Haldiman, Norfolk and Brant focused on providing information and community online for Black women living with HIV and AIDS in the region. This year, we helped launch their [official website](#) and online community.

Grant Funded Projects:



Digital Research
Alliance of Canada

Alliance de recherche
numérique du Canada

Digital Research Alliance of Canada, Data Championship Pilot Project (\$50,000) titled “Research Data Practices in the Social Sciences: A Collaborative Pilot Study for Developing Expertise and Research Support”.

The Brighter Spark team has taken a collaborative approach to bring together Research Data Management (RDM) specialists with disciplinary researchers in the social sciences to enhance knowledge translation and exchange around RDM practices. The team has been building new RDM templates and case studies, in addition to organizing course-based presentations and this year’s Innovation in Research series – **Data Management in Research**. The aim of this project is to inform future efforts at McMaster and elsewhere by improving research data management practices within the Social Sciences. This project extends from May 2022 – February 2023.



Mitacs, Business Strategy Internships were awarded to all five Brighter Spark student team members to advance our work with **Grenfell Ministries**, for a total of \$60,000 of additional funding.

In-kind Grant Support for FSS Research

Given the positive feedback and response, Spark continues to provide in-kind support for Faculty of Social Sciences Research Projects and funding applications, including space, training, or other research supports. Spark offered in-kind support for grant applications led by faculty members in Anthropology, Political Science, Humanities, and Economics this past year.

The CoLab CoWorking Space



Spark has re-opened our free coworking space designed for research teams to work, meet, engage with partners, and collaborate. We are excited by the energy that develops when people working on diverse and interdisciplinary projects connect - and so have built a co-working space where you can both focus, and engage with others across disciplines.

The CoLab is available to all research teams, faculty members and graduate students from across McMaster as well as community research partners. The CoLab offers open space with fifteen 2-4 person tables, a conversation area, two 2-person offices, two small conversations rooms and a meeting room that can seat 12.

If you are interested in joining – you can email us at talk.to.spark@mcmaster.ca to schedule a time to visit and get you set up on our booking system to reserve private spaces.

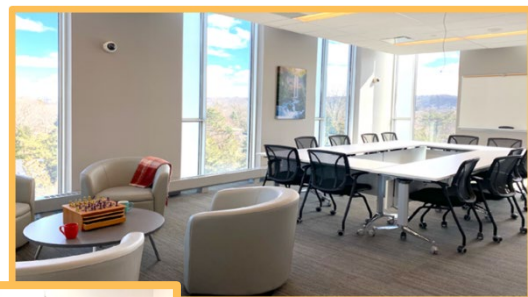
“When I first saw Spark’s beautiful space in L.R. Wilson Hall, I remembered research on the forming of significant cross-disciplinary partnerships. Many evolved from casual conversation in stairwells and coffee shops. The CoLab is a simple intervention to support innovation – just give people a comfortable space where they want to work. They’ll inevitably start to talk.”

– Allison Van

Qualitative Suite

The Qualitative Suite includes a large **focus group/observational room** and two **interview rooms** all with advanced audio/video capabilities that can be loaded directly into Qualitative Data Analysis Software.

Spark is piloting use of the suite and building our capacity to organize catering, parking, and trained facilitators/interviewers for clients. The Qualitative Suite is available for use by McMaster and external researchers on a fee-for-service basis.



SEAL



SECURE EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS LAB

SEAL is a high-security lab that researchers can access in person or from their own computer in order to analyze confidential data while keeping it protected.

This includes data sets from companies, governments, researchers, and community organizations which contain private information that cannot be made public. SEAL acts as a trusted intermediary between data holders and research users, using state-of-the-art technology to provide security while making authorized access from anywhere seamless.

SEAL works with researchers to:

- establish data-sharing agreements
- assist with cleaning and linking administrative datasets
- manage ongoing access for team members
- support analysis software integration

SEAL can be accessed by authorized researchers anywhere in the world through our MobiKey access system. Those in the area can also choose to use the physical lab located in a restricted area of L.R Wilson Hall.

During 2021-22, SEAL had 12 active projects with research teams around the world, including: University of Ottawa, University of Melbourne, Ryerson, University of Regina, FJL France and McMaster University.



6. Communication

Spark Connections Newsletter



The bi-weekly newsletter “Spark Connections” evolved this year with additional sections and a larger following. Spark introduced the “Kudos” section to celebrate the achievements of colleagues, friends and those doing important social research with the potential to spark a brighter world. Spark currently has a distribution list of over 500 people and readership between 2000-3000 per newsletter.

Building a New Website

Spark is excited to be transitioning our current website to MacSites which will expand the options for our content. This transition is underway with goals to launch in early 2023.

We have also been building large new sections of our website introducing our Social Research Certificates, providing more information about Brighter Spark Applied Research, and vastly expanding our Resources section.

This section will serve as an introduction to the 7 social research toolkits and the huge array of social research methods. Each will feature a handful of recommended resources for learning more that incorporate both our vast stock of research talks, as well as well-made introductory material available online from around the world.

Spark’s Annual Open House 2021

On September 24th, 2021, Spark held its annual open house via zoom to connect with the current and entering McMaster community, including

students, faculty, and researchers. The open house featured a fun game of trivia and research sessions introducing each of Spark’s 7 social research toolkits:

- 1) Foundational qualitative and mixed methods
- 2) Empowerment, engagement, and community-based research methods
- 3) Foundational quantitative methods
- 4) Advance computing and statistics
- 5) Addressing complexity and uncertainty
- 6) Research quality including ethics, data, project management and effective teams
- 7) Supporting evidence-based decision making in policy and social service practices

Social Media and Networking

LinkedIn



With excitement for Spark Talks in the fall, Spark launched the weekly social media campaign #SparkResearchReplay during summer 2021 to take a (virtual) walk down memory lane to reflect on some of the great Productivity During Pandemic Presentations from the last year.

Spark continues to utilize our social media Twitter and LinkedIn pages to share updates about Spark and as a way to reach both internal and external researchers.

Our Spark Communications team works hard to keep all platforms updated with content, resources and information that are readily available for use by researchers. A goal for this past year and moving forward, is to ensure content is accessible through for example, updating captions, and using digital formats which are more accessible, inline with AODA best practices.

7. Looking Ahead

In 2022-2023 Spark is excited to continue on our growth and learning journey by developing new, helpful and innovative programming, educational offerings and research services which meet the needs of our growing community. We look forward to continuing to consult with students, faculty and the community to develop needed and desired training opportunities and resources for researchers.

In 2022-23 we look forward to:

- Continue to offer a seminar series which allows for in-depth conversations about research tools and methods
- Deploy the “Research Data Practices in the Social Sciences: A Collaborative Pilot Study for Developing Expertise and Research Support” project to enhance knowledge translation and exchange around research data management
- Expand the Brighter Spark Applied Research services and team to further diversify offerings
- Offer more short courses on research tools and methods and begin the roll-out for our three new Social Research Certificates
- Continue to consult and enhance both our in-person and online mediums for AODA compatibility
- Continue to build our network of innovative researchers to enhance opportunities for collaboration and interdisciplinary research
- Build and enhance Spark’s online resources, toolkits, and repository of helpful guides for researchers

