



RESEARCH SPOLIGHT: FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION, ART AND TECHNOLOGY

SFU'S FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION, ART AND TECHNOLOGY (FCAT) IS COMPRISED OF FIVE SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS AT THE INTERSECTION OF MEDIA, ART, CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY. FCAT EDUCATES THE NEXT GENERATION OF THINKERS, MAKERS, AND DOERS THROUGH INTERDISCIPLINARY AND EXPERIENTIAL TEACHING.

COVID-19 RELATED PROJECTS

SFU School of Communication assistant professor Ahmed Al-Rawi joined global researchers to write [The COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Handbook](#). This handbook is for doctors, nurses, policy-makers, researchers and individuals who want to learn more about COVID-19 vaccines. It also explains how to talk about the COVID-19 vaccines, and how to identify and challenge misinformation surrounding the vaccines.

School of Interactive Arts & Technology (SIAT) professors Alissa Antle and Wolfgang Stuerzlinger received Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) COVID-19 Alliance grants. Antle developed an online social network called [No Child Alone](#) in partnership with Curatio, a digital health company that develops peer-to-peer online communities. This social network for children supports their socio-emotional needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stuerzlinger's project aims to improve communication of COVID-19 trends through the use of 3D visualizations such as space-time cubes that represent the data better.

Publishing's Juan Pablo Alperin wrote a paper on the use of COVID-19 preprints by media outlets during the pandemic. Alperin found COVID-19-related preprints were more than 200 times as likely to receive media coverage than those on other topics. He also found the

preliminary nature of these studies were not always communicated consistently by media outlets.

HANNAH MCGREGOR LAUNCHES AMPLIFY PODCAST NETWORK

Publishing professor Hannah McGregor launched the [Amplify Podcast Network](#) with the support of a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant showing podcasts can be a unique, legitimate form of academic research in their own right. The [podcast network is a partnership](#) between SFU's Publishing program and the Digital Humanities Innovation Lab (DHIL), Wilfrid Laurier University Press, Wilfrid Laurier University Library and The Documentary Media Society.

STEVE DIPAOLO COLLABORATES WITH AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM TO DEVELOP VR TRAINING SIMULATIONS

Advanced virtual training simulations are being created by an international tech team based in Vancouver, including SIAT professor Steve DiPaola, to train healthcare workers on the correct application of personal protective equipment (PPE) in long-term care facilities. These [VR and AI training simulations](#) give both practicing healthcare workers and students a safe and real-world experience in VR during the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, talks are underway to expand the training to workers across healthcare fields in Canada.

SIAT LECTURER'S ART PIECE DISPLAYED OUTSIDE THE CANADIAN SENATE CHAMBERT

An art piece created by acclaimed writer, artist and SIAT lecturer, Chantal Gibson, is challenging historic and systemic racism—from its place in the [foyer outside the Canadian Senate Chamber](#). It's one of two pieces installed in the Senate honouring Canada's Black artists and was comprised by altering books with braided and twisted black cotton thread. Gibson also collaborated on the [un/settled art installation](#) at SFU's Vancouver campus. The installation centres around Black womanhood and features a tribute to Breonna Taylor.

SKODEN INDIGENOUS FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR THIRD YEAR

The [Skoden Indigenous Film Festival](#) returns for the third year, co-taught by SFU School of Contemporary Arts alumnus Carr Sappier. The festival was created to showcase Indigenous filmmakers and to Indigenize the SFU community. A group of 15 interdisciplinary students at SFU are learning how to organize an online film festival as well as screening many Indigenous films they may not otherwise be exposed to as they review over 100 submissions.

MAJOR FUNDING AWARDS AND GRANTS

Three FCAT faculty members were [awarded SSHRC Insight Development Grants](#) for their research and innovation in diverse areas of digital media. SIAT's Gabriela Aceves Sepúlveda's project explores archival media arts projects from a feminist perspective and through the concepts of re-activation, re-mediation

and re-enactment. Also in SIAT, Bernhard Riecke is studying the effects of synchronized breathing on interpersonal relationships as experienced in virtual reality. In the School of Communication (SCA), Cait McKinney's project will develop a methodology for studying marginalized internet histories—starting with the connection between HIV and network computing.

SCA's Kathy Slade currently holds two major grants for new artistic research. Slade was awarded \$303,629 from SSHRC's Insight Grant for her project using artistic research methods to examine the technologies underlying contemporary AI platforms. This project exposes and demystifies the charismatic functions of AI and the structural biases they often obscure, making them visible to a diverse audience. Additionally, Slade holds a Research-Creation Grant from the Canada Council for the Arts to research, develop and produce a new series of woven tapestries that will form the basis of a solo exhibition to be held at the Contemporary Art Gallery in Vancouver and the Southern Alberta Art Gallery in Lethbridge in 2022.

SFU assistant professor Simone Rapisarda received a Canada Council for the Arts Concept to Realization grant of \$100,000 for the production of a new documentary/fiction feature film, *Perseo*. The documentary/fiction hybrid film project conjures the character of a modern Perseus, a healer whom we accompany on journeys transgressing borders of time and space.



**FCAT INCLUDES A DIVERSE AND TALENTED
INTERDISCIPLINARY GROUP OF ARTISTS,
RESEARCHERS, SCHOLARS AND TECHNOLOGISTS.**