The MSU Canadian Studies Center: Looking Back and Moving Forward

Rebecca Malouin, PhD, MPH, MS
January 11, 2023
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Overview of Presentation

• Brief Introduction
• Approach as Interim Center Director
• Canadian Studies Center Work organized by ISP Strategic Pillars
  • Creating Global Citizens – Academic Initiatives
  • Innovating Global Solutions – Canada Connect
  • Generating Global Investment – Administrative Work
• The Future
Rebecca Malouin, PhD, MPH, MS - Brief Biosketch

• B.S. in Psychology from University of Michigan
• Health and Nutrition Volunteer at Peace Corps Niger
• Ph.D. and M.P.H in International Health from Johns Hopkins University
• Consulted for URC, AED, HKI, etc.
• Served as epidemiologist at Maryland and Michigan state health departments and completed a M.S. in Epidemiology at MSU
• 2 NIH training awards, HRSA grant, K01, R01, industry funding (IBM, UHC, etc.)
Scholarly Activity – Global Health and Health Services Research
Service and Administration

• At-Large Member of the MSU Faculty Senate
• Faculty Representative to MSU Athletic Council
• Chair of the Drug Testing and Education Committee for Athletic Department (twice selected)
• RPT committees for colleges and departments
• Directed research programs – the Primary Care Research and Evaluation Program and Institute for Global Health
• Developed and direct a graduate program – MS/GC in Global Health
• Participated in AAN Leadership Fellowship 2020-2021
Long-Standing Interest and Engagement with the Center

• Core faculty member since 2010
• Secured funding from Canadian Embassy through information shared by the Center 2012
  • *Understanding Primary Care Transformation in the Niagara Region of Ontario from the Perspective of Practices and Programs* (co-PI Health Howard, Ph.D.)
  • Used R01 funding to hold an international conference in Buffalo in 2014
• Presented research to the Toronto Spartans Alumni Club 2014
• Served on the Faculty Advisory Committee 2011-2014
Needs Assessment for the Canadian Studies Center

• Interviewed over 25 key informants
  • Faculty
  • Alumni
  • Government officials (Canada, Ontario, Quebec)
  • ISP and affiliated center leadership
• Collected data from the library and G-IDEAS on publications and grants with Canadian partners
• Collected data on current Canadian students and Canadian-affiliated programs
Facts at-a-Glance

• In last 10 years 172 projects with Canadian component generating $36,986,041 in research funding – 91% of funds were for single-country projects (G-IDEAS)
• Of the 32 multi-region projects during period, top collaborating countries included the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Germany. (G-IDEAS)
• From 2015-2019, MSU faculty co-published over 2,000 publications with Canadians – excluding physics (Academic Analytics)
• Over 40 (of 400 invited) new faculty members added to Center core faculty as a result of publication search – including representation from many additional colleges
Thematic Topics of Publications

- **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**
  - 203 Web of Science Documents

- **PLANT SCIENCES**
  - 82 Web of Science Documents

- **MARINE & FRESHWATER**
  - 60 Web of Science Documents

- **PSYCHOLOGY**
  - 49 Web of Science Documents

- **BIOCHEMISTRY**
  - 46 Web of Science Documents

- **TOXICOLOGY**
  - 45 Web of Science Documents

- **CLINICAL NEUROLOGY**
  - 59 Web of Science Documents

- **PUBLIC, ENVIRON...**
  - 45 Web of Science Documents

- **EDUCATION & EDU...**
  - 45 Web of Science Documents

- **FISHING**
  - 43 Web of Science Documents

- **CA...**
  - 39 Web of Science Documents

- **GENETICS & HEREDITY**
  - 54 Web of Science Documents

- **PERIPHERAL VASC...**
  - 44 Web of Science Documents

- **EVOLUTIONARY...**
  - 37 Web of Science Documents

*Box size indicates Web of Science Documents*
Top 20 Collaborating Institutions in Publications 2015-2019
Current Mission Statement

Our mission is to connect the Michigan State University community and Canadian organizations to address global challenges through collaborative education, outreach and research.
MSU International Studies and Programs

Strategic Pillars

• Creating Global Citizens (Educational Programming)
  • New curriculum models aligned with priority partnerships
  • Recruitment and support of international students
  • Creation of empowered global citizens

• Innovating Global Solutions (Canada Connect)
  • Sustainable multi-disciplinary, cross-regional partnerships
  • Creating pathways from knowledge and technology to real-world impact
International Studies and Programs Strategic Pillars Continued

• Generating Global Investment
  • Resource hub for those pursuing international funding
  • Assist faculty connect to international colleagues
  • Diversify external funding
Creating Global Citizens

• Expanding Education Abroad
  • WRA495: Community Literacies and Engagement Across Borders
  • FLM 491: Toronto International Film Festival

• Canadian Thanksgiving Celebrations

• Grandparents University 2023: American or Canadian? The Culture and Charm of Canada

• Support for the MSU Student French Club
  • Mois de la Francophonie (February 2023)
  • Speaker Series
    • Jeanne Lamy-Belzil, Government Affairs at Quebec Office in Chicago
    • Dr. Amy Ransom, Quebec Studies, Central Michigan University
Creating Global Citizens

• Supporting Canadian Student Groups
  • MSU Canadian Student Law Association
  • MSU Canadian Osteopathic Student Organization

• Supporting Student Involvement in Conferences
  • Faculty mentor for law student presentation “National Narratives, Women, and Migration in Scottish-Canadian Fraternal Orders, 1870s-20002” for the MSU Graduate Academic Conference. Public Communication about the Center
  • Podcast about the Canadian Studies Center on 89 FM Impact
  • Interview with WILX regarding opening of Canadian border
Over 400 webinar participants including legislators and industry partners

Dr. Eric Freedman, the MSU Knight Foundation Endowed Chair in Environmental Journalism

Dr. Robert Richardson, Professor, MSU Department of Community Sustainability

Dr. Grant Gunn, Assistant Professor, U of Waterloo Department of Geography and Environmental Management

Dr. Doug Bessette, Assistant Professor MSU Department of Community Sustainability

Earl Provost, Ontario Agent-General in Chicago,

Martine Hebert, Quebec Delegate in Chicago

Joe Comartin, Consul General of Canada in Detroit
Collaboration with the MSU Center for PFAS Research and Dr. Cheryl Murphy

Included a series of 3 webinars on the following topics:

**Canadian and US Perspectives on PFAS**
January 18, 2022

**A One Health Perspective**
February 15, 2022

**Issues of Social Justice**
March 15, 2022

**Contamination in Wildlife**
Innovating Global Solutions

- Strategic Partnership Grants Awarded 2021-2022

- Carl Boehlert, Ph.D., M.S., Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, for the project “Collaboration with Université Laval on the Study of Corrosion of Metals and Alloys” in collaboration with the Department of Mining, Metallurgy, and Materials Engineering at Université Laval.

- Caroline Szczepanski, Ph.D., Chemical Engineering and Materials Science for the project, “Supporting growing collaborations in materials, wood sciences, and forestry between MSU and Université Laval” in collaboration with the Department of Wood Sciences and Forestry at Université Laval.

- Emily S. Huff, Ph.D., Department of Forestry for the project “Climate sensitive social dependencies: Developing a collaborative team” in collaboration with the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at University of Waterloo.
From Materials Science to Supply Chain Strengthening: Establishing Inter-university Cooperation, funded by the Quebec Government

- Investigators: Rebecca Malouin, PhD, MPH, MS, Veronic Landry, PhD, Caroline Szczepanski, Ph.D., Mojan Nejad, Ph.D., Carl Boehlert, Ph.D., Steven Melnyk, Ph.D., Gordon Henry, Ph.D.
- The specific objectives of the proposed project include:
  - identifying current and future areas of collaboration in the material sciences,
  - exploration of formalized bi-directional exchange of doctoral and post-doctoral students
  - exploration of other areas of collaboration based on institutional strengths (e.g. supply chain science and indigenous studies),
Generating Global Investment

• Survey of core faculty revealed most important role of the Center is to help provide funding to faculty
• Advocated for an increase in SPG funding to be equal to other Centers
• Collaborating with the Ontario Agent-General in Chicago to develop student scholarships for internships in Ontario
• Collaborating with MSU Advancement to identify current and potential expansion of endowment funding
• Exploring possibility for Title VI funding and virtual regional center for Canadian Studies (MWACS re-organizing, possible DIG10 Course Change)
Generating Global Investment

• Data-driven approach to partnership with Canadian universities
• Core faculty meetings each semester – call for proposals for webinars, strategic partnership grants, communities of practice
• Sponsoring and/or partnering in impactful webinars
• Identifying best practices in implementation of strategic partnership grants
• Implementing Canada Connect as a platform through strategic MOUs and joint funding – Quebec government funding
Generating Global Investment

• Resource hub for those pursuing international funding
• Partner with other centers and unit for multi-regional funding
  • CBIE – announced federal funding for strategic partnerships
• Diversity external funding
  • Government funds
  • Private funds/endowments
  • Income generation
Vision

The MSU Canadian Studies Center is recognized as the premier Canadian Studies Center in the United States

- Canada Connect as a platform for strategic partnerships
- Canadian Studies hub and spoke model for educational programming about Canada across Midwest and Big10
- Thematic areas of focus: e.g., Great Lakes (water, policy, agriculture, climate change, business, supply chain, etc.)
Future Directions

• Creation of a robust, detailed strategic plan based on vision with input from the faculty advisory committee, external advisory committee, and the core faculty, aligned with university and ISP plans given vision and thematic areas
• Development of a strategically curated external advisory committee
• Developing a robust Center staff to realize the strategic plan
• Fully realize the Canada Connect concept as a sub-unit within the Center
The Ontario-Michigan Supply Chain: Strengths and Opportunities

- Canada Connect/IPPSR Policy Forum on February 9 8:30-10:00 am
- Audience: Michigan legislators and their aides (will be hybrid)
- Speakers:
  - Robert Greening, CEO TJX Canada
  - Mike Johnston, EVP MI Manufacturers Association
  - Steven Melnyk, MSU Professor of Supply Chain and Operations Management
  - Earl Provost, Ontario Agent-General in Chicago
  - David Woodruff, Assistant VP at Canadian National
Additional Upcoming Events

- Luncheon with Colin Bird, new Consul General in Detroit (January 2023)
- Ontario-Michigan Supply Chain Forum (February 2023)
- Employment Opportunities in the Foreign Service (February 2023)
- Canadian Studies Center Reception (March 2023)
  - Introduction to Center staff and center overview
  - Celebration for SPG awards including student scholarships
  - Opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to mingle
- CN Forum and 65th Anniversary Celebration (Fall 2023)
Summary

• A both broad and deep knowledge of Michigan State University
• Commitment to supporting scholarship of and collaboration between faculty members and educational opportunities for students
• Long-standing interest in, commitment to and experience in supporting the MSU Canadian Studies Center
• Vision and strategy for moving the Center to the premier Canadian Studies Center in the United States
  • Canada Connect
  • Canadian Studies Core
Contact

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