

Title of Project:	The Diplomacy of Diaspora and Migration Museums
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Undergraduate Students	2 FIMS Undergraduate students will each be hired for 2 terms at \$1,250 per term
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Required Skills: excellent verbal and written communication skills, ability to work in a team environment, organizational skills, strong research skills (including familiarity with Western Libraries and/or literature reviews)

Term of Employment: September - December 2022; January- April 2023

FIMS Investigators:
Sarah Smith , Canada Research Chair in Art, Culture and Global Relations

Co- Investigators:
- Kirsty Robertson , Professor, Department of Visual Arts, Faculty of Arts & Humanities, Western -Sascha Priewe, Director of Collections and Public Programs, Aga Khan Museum

Graduate Student
To be hired

Description of Project

Museums are embedded within global webs of relations, through activities including exhibitions, programming, fieldwork, and repatriation initiatives. Yet, the impact and global role of museums has yet to be fully explored. To advance our understanding of how museums contribute to global relationships, this research project seeks to assess diaspora and migration museums as cultural diplomacy actors that productively advance diverse networks.

These museums sit, just like the diaspora and migratory communities they represent and have emerged from, at the location between their host nation and country of origin. As such, they resist methodological nationalism and foster narratives that bridge local and global connections. Addressing the diplomacy of diaspora and migration museums, this research project aims to generate new understandings of museum diplomacy and contextualize the work of select Canadian and US institutions amongst their global counterparts.

Employing a team-based approach to research, this project will specifically investigate how museum professionals at diaspora and migration museums perceive their involvement in cultural diplomacy work. As well, it will examine how diaspora and migration museums negotiate institutional and

government policies within the context of their global work, including policy agendas that museums did not necessarily shape or that may run counter to their interests. The project will yield insights that speak to the global networks of institutions that are often presumed to have limited cultural or regional audiences. In turn, this research will allow museums to better understand their impact and leverage their connections, while formulating improved policies that speak to the relevance of the sector and its work in an increasingly connected world.

The project seeks motivated undergraduate students with interests in culture, museums, diaspora, migration, diplomacy, and international relations. Enthusiasm is required but all research training will be provided. Working as a part of a team, you will have the opportunity to learn about the museum sector in North America, as well as a subset of diaspora and migration museums. The role will also allow you to develop your professional network through meetings with cultural workers in the field.

Support and development of Undergraduate Student Fellows

Students will receive training from Sarah Smith to facilitate the literature review (fall 2022), analysis of museum policy documents (winter 2023), and qualitative interviews with practitioners (winter 2023). Through engagement with co-investigators Kirsty Robertson and Sascha Priewe, students will also gain an understanding of scholarship in the field of museology and current practices in the field. Additionally, they will receive training in knowledge mobilization, supporting the dissemination of the research (winter 2023). Students may have the opportunity to travel to Toronto to participate in research events (travel costs will be funded by Smith).

How to Apply

To apply, please submit your resume, an unofficial transcript, and a cover letter that explains your interest in the role and relevant skills. These documents can be emailed to Sarah Smith (sarah.smith@uwo.ca). Deadline for applications is August 31, 2022.