

**Closing the loop: Using outcomes to shape
the future**

Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools



The TRaCE Project

PAUL YACHNIN
INSTITUTE FOR THE PUBLIC LIFE OF ARTS AND
IDEAS
MCGILL UNIVERSITY



Preservation and Innovation in Graduate Education



Preservation



- preserve and strengthen the curiosity-driven, deep, self-critical, dialogical character of humanities research and teaching at the top of its form

Innovation



- teach humanities research and teaching at the top of its form how to move



track PhDs who have graduated in the humanities

report on where they are, whether inside or outside the academy, and on what they have achieved

connect them with each other and with faculty and students inside the academy

sponsor **exchanges** of knowledge and knowhow among PhD students, faculty members, and PhDs pursuing careers in non-academic sectors

What are the benefits of the TRaCE project?



- universities undertake graduate program reform in light of a clearer picture of the career pathways of humanities PhDs
- PhD students and faculty develop broader, evidence-based understanding of how the PhD leads to multiple career pathways rather than to only one
- enable exchanges among humanities researchers inside and outside the academy in ways that benefit faculty members, other academic PhDs, PhDs in non-academic careers, and doctoral students
- help Canadians understand and appreciate the value of humanities research and teaching
- create an infrastructure for a new national humanities teaching and research community that includes the universities and also multiple non-academic sectors of work and action



White Paper on the Future of the PhD in the Humanities, December 2013

<http://iplai.ca/participate/resources-and-archives/papers/>

Future Humanities: Transforming Graduate Studies for the Future of Canada, conference in Montreal, May 2015

<http://iplai.ca/what-we-do/research-public-exchange/future-humanities/>

National Collaboration



- 24 Canadian universities, French and English
 - 60+ university departments, programs, faculties
- Canadian Association for Graduate Studies
- Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences
- Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario
- Jackman Humanities Institute at the University of Toronto
- funding from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, participating universities, and partners

Stages of Work

(1) basic data collection



basic data collection about the graduate PhD cohorts (2004-2014)—name, gender, field of study, title of dissertation, year of graduation, academic rank, job title, job description, name of employer, city and country of residence, and contact information

(2) engaging with the grads



establish lines of connection with the members of the graduate PhD cohorts, check the data from stage 1, begin the gathering of narrative knowledge, invite PhDs to return to the academy as mentors, visiting lecturers, and so on, and develop and populate the TRaCE website

(3) community building



build a new national humanities research and teaching community:

- PhD students and faculty take their their energy, abilities, and knowledge off campus and lend a hand to public work and action, arts and culture, commerce and creativity
- PhDs from multiple sectors of work and action outside the university return to the academy as mentors, advisors, teachers, committee members, learners, and collaborators

Non-academic PhDs can



- model dispositional mobility—help us learn how to move
- provide networking and employment opportunities for new graduates
- advise universities that are developing new graduate programs and revising existing programs
- workshop with faculty members
- contribute to the reorientation of the university toward more active engagement with the world

<http://iplaitrace.com/>



- bilingual environment
- space for up to 100,000 registered users
- statistical data and narrative knowledge—numbers and stories about the pathways to, through, and from the PhD
- networking capacities (to be routed through Facebook, LinkedIn)



Archana Rampure, Senior Officer, Political Action,
at CUPE National

As an undergraduate student, I was good at literature and interested in how it could lead to a better "read"... [View Article](#)

english narrative non-ac politics



Greg Kelly, Executive Producer of Ideas on CBC Radio One

In undergrad, I studied literature and history and found the interdisciplinary material freeing. After my Masters, I decided to study... [View Article](#)

CBC english narrative non-ac radio

TRaCE 2.0



starting Fall 2016, a five-year project that will extend the work—

- social scientists (both PhDs and doctoral students)
- artists
- humanities scholars and teachers

TRaCE 2.0 to create an infrastructure for a national community in the arts, humanities, and social sciences dedicated to mobilizing humanistic knowledge for the public good.

What you can do



- Spread the word: the focus is Canada, but there are places at the table for people from the USA and beyond; encourage others to join the TRaCE website; tell your story, and encourage others to tell theirs
- Do tracking exercises with your departments, programs, faculties
- Build the store of narrative knowledge as well as statistical data
- Bring back PhD grads to take part in your graduate programs



Thank you

