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Germany & Canada

Celebrating 50 Years of Scientific and Technological
Cooperation



Collaboration Themes

Canadian-German Collaboration in the Social Sciences and Humanities: Joint Research within the Trans-Atlantic Platform

Kanada und Deutschland unterhalten seit langem eine enge Zusammenarbeit in den Sozial- und Geisteswissenschaften. Im vergangenen Jahrzehnt wurde diese Zusammenarbeit gestärkt, indem sich kanadische und deutsche Forschungsfördereinrichtungen am Aufbau der 2013 gegründeten Trans-Atlantic Platform (T-AP) beteiligten. Bisher wurden interdisziplinäre Projekte auf dem Gebiet der Digital Humanities und der sozialen Innovationsforschung gefördert. Die jüngste gemeinsame Förderbekanntmachung zu sozialen Folgen der COVID-19-Pandemie verspricht umfassende Erkenntnisse auf der Basis international vergleichender Forschung.

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Canadians and Germans have been successfully collaborating in the humanities and social sciences (SSH) for the last eight years under the Trans-Atlantic Platform for Social Sciences and Humanities (T-AP). T-AP is an unprecedented collaboration between SSH funders from South and North America and Europe. In this framework the Canadian Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture (FRQSC) closely work together with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the DLR Project Management Agency (DLR-PT) to identify common research and societal challenges and promote a culture of collaboration.

By jointly calling for research in areas where there is strong potential for international collaboration, the Platform facilitates the formation of networks and promotes interdisciplinarity. T-AP also strives to heighten awareness of the important role the social

sciences and humanities play in addressing twenty-first century challenges.

Since 2016, the Canadian and German funders have launched three research calls together with funding organizations from the US, South America and Europe: 'Digging into Data' (2016), 'Social Innovation' (2018), and, the most recent, 'Recovery, Renewal and Resilience in a Postpandemic World' (2021).

Digging into Data

'Digging into Data' facilitated international team-based research into how large-scale computational techniques might be applied in SSH areas as diverse as musicology, economics, linguistics, political science, and history.

In one project, an interdisciplinary team comprised of participants from Canada, Germany and the United States, developed and applied a new



computerized method for translating and analyzing 67,000 administrative documents from twenty-first century BC southern Mesopotamia. In another, a cognitive scientist from Germany joined a sociologist from the United States and Canadian-based experts in computer science and software engineering, to explore the social and psychological mechanisms at play during collaborative groups.

Social Innovation

The T-AP 'Social Innovation' research call permitted knowledge sharing and facilitated multi-sectoral collaborative work to address social challenges experienced on both sides of the Atlantic. One ongoing project, 'Collaborative Social Innovation', brings research partners from Canada, Germany, and the Netherlands together with non-profit, for-profit, and governmental organizations to navigate context-dependent challenges in scaling social innovation responses. By contrast, a German-Canadian team of humanities researchers, 'Worlding Public Cultures', is using art, art exhibitions, conference presentations and scholarly writing to shift public discourse about our globally interconnected yet conflicted world.

Recovery, Renewal and Resilience in a Postpandemic World

The most recent call, 'Recovery, Renewal and Resilience in a Postpandemic World', aims to address key gaps in our understanding of the dynamic and complex interaction of medium and long-term societal effects of COVID-19 pandemic. This

understanding, in turn, should advance knowledge of how to mitigate the negative societal effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and support recovery and renewal in a post-pandemic world. In launching the call, Canadian, German and the other T-AP funders are seizing on a unique opportunity to unite SSH researchers worldwide around a common cause and a common need. Alongside funding agencies from Brazil, Columbia, Croatia, Finland, France, Poland, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, the research and collaboration enabled promises to be unprecedented in scale, reach and value. Research projects are slated to begin in March 2022.

i **Further Information
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