

Department of Sociology Annual Research Release Program

Developed through the efforts of the Dispute Resolution Panel for Sociology constituted as per 18.15(g) of the Collective agreement between YUFA and the York University Board of Governors.

Principles

1. The Department of Sociology's annual Research Release Program is consistent with Article 18.15 and is intended to be inclusive and equitable.
2. All eligible faculty in the Department of Sociology with an active research program should expect to qualify for a release.
3. The Department acknowledges that equity issues apply to all aspects of the Release Program.
4. The Department acknowledges that factors mitigating research activity (eg. parental leave, illness, administrative position) will be reasonably considered in favour of the applicant.
5. Members are entitled to appeal and/or grieve unit level research release decisions under the procedures outlined below and per Section 18.15 of the YUFA Collective Agreement.

Procedure

1. The annual call for submissions for the Research Release Program will take place at the commencement of the Fall Semester.
2. Eligible faculty will be asked to submit evidence demonstrating that the applicant meets the Department's criteria for the Release Program.
3. Faculty submissions will be reviewed and adjudicated by the Executive Committee. Implementation of successful applications will be the responsibility of the Undergraduate Program Committee.
4. If the recommendation is not to award a release, the faculty member will be informed of the reason(s) in writing. If the faculty member requests reconsideration, their request will be assessed by 2 tenured members of Graduate Executive Committee.
5. All positive recommendations will be submitted to the Dean. If the Dean does not accept recommendations, section 18.15 of the YUFA Collective Agreement will be followed.
6. Faculty preferences as regards the timing of the release will be honoured. However, there is no guarantee that all preferences can be accommodated. The Undergraduate Program Committee reserves the right to align faculty preferences with curricular needs.

Criteria

1. The Department of Sociology's criteria are premised upon a broad understanding of what a regular pattern research activities and contributions entails.
 - 1.1 In evaluating a candidate's application for the annual Research Release Program, a careful and balanced consideration of the candidate's past 3 years of research will be given priority. The connections with present and future research activities and plans will also be given consideration.

1.2 Within the discipline of Sociology we recognize that research activities may be heterodox, given faculty members' diverse critical perspectives, methodologies and fields of specialization. Therefore, the following list of indicators of research activities is not necessarily exhaustive.

2. We take **one or more** of the following as explicitly indicative of "Research Activity" requiring no further evidence:
 - i) Peer reviewed publication/knowledge mobilization project/creative scholarly works appearing in any of the three years preceding the application. This includes sole or jointly authored edited volumes or special journal issues, articles in refereed journals, book chapters, curation of exhibits, multimedia projects, film production or performance. If the application is made on the basis of only one article or book chapter (or equivalent), this will need to have appeared within the two years preceding the application.
 - ii) Sole or jointly authored books that have appeared within the four years preceding the application.
 - iii) An external grant awarded and continuing into the year of the proposed release is definitively indicative of research activity for the duration of the term of award of the grant.

The Department of Sociology recognizes that research often follows a cyclical pattern. Monographs, edited volumes/special issues and peer-reviewed journal articles – as well as other scholarly projects – may take years to appear in their final form. Also, some forms of research activity may fall outside the usual model of publication, such as research collaboration and community engagement. Additionally, it is recognized that factors such as parental leave, illness, administrative responsibilities may mitigate or interrupt research activity. Where one or more of the above indicators are not definitively fulfilled within the time period stipulated, the Department of Sociology will consider other evidence of research activity as this is contextualized within a candidate's research statement. This evidence will include **two or more** of the following indicators, in combination with one of the above indicators, within the past three years.

- iv) An external research grant applied for or internal research grant awarded.
- v) Awards for research, such as external fellowships, book awards, invited keynote presentations at national or international conferences, or other relevant public recognition of scholarly or creative accomplishments. These will be taken as an external agency's acknowledgement of research activity.
- vi) Ongoing activities that make a **substantive** contribution to research dissemination such as: the organization of conferences; editorship of journals; membership on adjudicating committees of funding agencies.
- vii) Ongoing data collection activities, such as fieldwork, archive work, interviews or any other data collection that may reasonably be expected to result in publication as per (i)

- viii) Presentation of research in the form of plenary or paper presentations at learned conferences, that can reasonably be expected to result in publications or contributions.
- ix) Primary supervision of graduate students in their year of completion of program requirements in the year preceding the application
- x) Other activities that do not easily fit into the categories above will be considered with appropriate weighting. This includes combinations of two or more minor publications (e.g., book reviews, encyclopedia entries) or creative activities, public interest research activities, blog entries, significant media communication and knowledge mobilization, two or more peer-reviews of manuscripts submitted to academic journals and publishing companies, organization of substantive research-related workshops, seminars and/or meetings, all with an emphasis on critical appraisal or peer review.

In recognizing the difficulties that can be involved with applying evaluative metrics to define what counts as “research active,” colleagues in the department may make a case for their eligibility to receive a research release under this program even if their research activity or ongoing work is not neatly captured or codified by the list of indicators and combinations above.