



CIFAR Chair: Artificial Intelligence and Indigeneity

Media and Technology Studies University of Alberta

An Opportunity for a Specialist in the Field of AI and Indigeneity

The Position:

Media and Technologies Studies in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta is seeking applications from scholars who would be eligible to be nominated for a **CIFAR Chair in Artificial Intelligence and Indigeneity**. The successful candidate will assume a tenured position at the rank of Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor.

The ideal candidate will lead an innovative program of research that develops areas including but not limited to:

- Indigenous epistemologies
- digital humanities
- software studies
- emergent media theories

with special emphasis on how these areas intersect with decolonization, artificial intelligence understood broadly, and Indigenous research and knowledge.

The Faculty of Arts encourages First Nations, Métis, and Inuit scholars to apply, along with Indigenous scholars from any geographical region. Applicants should self-identify and are encouraged to demonstrate Indigenous community connections. Both Canadian and international scholars will be considered, and they must hold a terminal degree (PhD or MFA/MDes).

We seek research, leadership, and mentorship that will stimulate effective collaborations within the Program, Faculty and University. Demonstrated experience leading research and/or research creation projects at the intersection of AI and Indigenous research would be an asset. Candidates are expected to be conducting an innovative and robust research program in the field of AI, demonstrated by a strong record of publications and presentations in important venues, or a record of diverse research experiences, such as research creation or community-engaged scholarship. Candidates should have a clear plan for future research.

Review of applications will be on October 30, 2023 and will continue until the position is filled, with a targeted start date of July 1, 2024. The job ad can be viewed here:

<https://www.careers.ualberta.ca/Competition/A110649501/>

Why UAlberta?

The University of Alberta (www.ualberta.ca) is situated in the centre of [Edmonton](#), on Amiskwaciy/Beaver Hills in Treaty 6 territory, also the traditional meeting ground and home for many Indigenous Peoples, including the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Dene, Métis, and Nakota Sioux. It is one of

the leading Universities in Canada based on the reputation and strength in service, teaching and research. Amiskwaciy is home to Canada's second-largest urban Indigenous population, with over 76,000 residents who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis. The University is home to a diverse and welcoming community of over 1,300 Indigenous students from various Nations and communities. In 2022, the University's Indigenous Strategic Plan was implemented, and along with the University's EDI Strategic Plan, it is underpinned by respect for the dignity, rights, and full participation of all those who live, work, and learn within the university.

[Media and Technology Studies \(MTS\)](#) is an interdisciplinary unit within the Faculty of Arts, with growing undergraduate programs in Media Studies; Science, Technology & Society; and Computer Game Design, as well as a graduate program in Digital Humanities and an MA in Communications and Technology. MTS offers a vibrant and supportive work environment for new and established academics, with outstanding support for research and teaching.

[The Faculty of Arts](#) is the oldest and most diverse faculty on campus and is one of the largest research and teaching centres in Western Canada. Research programs with connections to Indigenous research across the Faculty include the Canada Research Chair in Comparative Indigenous Feminist Studies, the Institute for Prairie and Indigenous Archeology, the Intersections of Gender (IG) signature area, and the Canadian Literature Centre/Centre de littérature canadienne (CLC). The University is also home to the Faculty of Native Studies as well as the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Peoples, Technoscience, and Society, the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Governance, and the Situated Knowledges, Indigenous Peoples and Place (SKIPP) signature area.

Strong Support for Chairholders:

Successful candidates will be nominated for a Canada CIFAR Artificial Intelligence (CCAI) Chair by the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (Amii). Amii is one of three institutes named in the Pan-Canadian AI Strategy and represents more than 35 artificial intelligence (AI) & machine learning (ML) researchers at the U of A, as well as CCAI Chairs at post-secondary institutions across Western Canada.

This position is part of a University of Alberta cluster hire in the areas of research strength that include health, energy and Indigenous initiatives in health and humanities, among others. The University of Alberta is world-renowned for its strength in AI; this cohort will bring together and foster the next generation of scientists leading the development of machine learning for societal benefit, fulfilling Amii's mandate of AI for good and all.

The Chairholder's responsibilities will include undergraduate and graduate teaching, graduate supervision and normal administrative service, as well as maintaining an original and innovative research program. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

What do successful chairs receive?

- Funding: ~\$500k over 5 years (\$100k/year) in research funding.
- Up to 25% of the funding can be used as a salary top-up.
- Becoming an Amii Fellow.
- Access to national CIFAR AI Chair programming.

For information, please contact: Chair of the Search Committee, Dr. Marie-Eve Morin (mmorin1@ualberta.ca), or Director of MTS, Dr. Gordon Gow (ggow@ualberta.ca).