CIFAR Global Call for Ideas

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A *Global* Research Institute

CIFAR brings together outstanding researchers to identify and address important global challenges.

CIFAR supports and promotes sustained research collaborations spanning disciplinary boundaries and geographic borders.

Since 1982, CIFAR has impacted the way the world understands critical shared challenges such as the Earth’s evolution, early child and brain development, artificial intelligence, building strong societies, and many others.
CIFAR

Our Points of Accountability

Development of Future Research Leaders

Create Transformative Knowledge

Knowledge Mobilization

- We nurture the next generation of research leaders by providing opportunities for exceptional emerging scholars to develop relationships and skills to become future research leaders.

- Our programs and activities accelerate knowledge creation and make important contributions to the world’s understanding of complex issues of global importance.

- We work with knowledge user communities to ensure that research insights drive innovation and inform policy and practice.
Founded on Research *Excellence*

Over 60% of CIFAR Fellows are in the top 1% of their fields.

18 Nobel Laureates have been associated with CIFAR since its founding in 1982.

15% of researchers receive major awards each year.

These leaders work together to answer complex questions in interdisciplinary networks.
Connecting Researchers around the World

More than 50% of 407 CIFAR researchers are outside Canada. These researchers are based at 138 institutions in 17 countries, supervising ~2,000 graduate and postgraduate trainees. We also engaged with 294 international guest researchers from 17 countries last year.
CIFAR is about *Impact*

*CIFAR is dedicated to creating global impact*

- CIFAR connects our Fellows with policy-makers, business leaders, practitioners, and partners so that knowledge created in CIFAR programs allows knowledge users to be better positioned to act.

- CIFAR takes the transformative knowledge generated by our researchers and puts it into action through events, op-eds and focused communication.
CIFAR Research Programs

Our Research Programs are interdisciplinary, sustained networks focused on generating transformative knowledge

- Challenge-focused, not discipline-focused
- Highly interdisciplinary and deeply collaborative
- Focused is on transformative knowledge, not incremental results
- Funded for 5-year terms (renewable)

Meet in-person 2-3 times per year (remain at their home institution). This sustained interaction fosters trusted relationships.

  e.g., CIFAR has supported programs in Gravity & the Extreme Universe and Quantum Materials for 30 years.

- Comprised of ~25 Fellows from around the world

  Includes a mix of senior researchers and promising early career researchers.
Current Research Programs

Programs are not constrained by geographic borders and cut across disciplines

Azrieli Program in Brain, Mind & Consciousness

Bio-inspired Solar Energy

Child & Brain Development

Gravity & the Extreme Universe

Genetic Networks

Humans & the Microbiome

Institutions, Organizations & Growth

Learning in Machines and Brains

Molecular Architecture of Life

Quantum Information Science

Quantum Materials

Successful Societies
CIFAR *Program*

**Successful Societies**

Explores the roots of social inequalities aims to identify the cultural and social frameworks that put societies on a path toward greater and more equitable prosperity.

Founded in 2007

Program Co-Directors: Michèle Lamont, Harvard University, USA & Paul Peirson, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Number of members and advisors: 19

Number of institutions: 16

Disciplines: sociology; political science; organizational, cultural and social psychology; political philosophy; history; economics
Humans & the Microbiome

Examines the human microbiome – the microbes that live in and on us – and the role it plays in human development and behaviour, as well as how it is affecting our evolution and society.

Founded in 2014

Program Directors: B. Brett Finlay, University of British Columbia, Canada & Janet Rossant, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada

Number of members and advisors: 19

Number of institutions: 16 (in 8 countries)

Disciplines: microbiology; developmental, evolutionary and stem cell biology; anthropology; history
Azrieli Program in Brain, Mind & Consciousness

Seeks to examine the neural underpinnings of consciousness, leading to better treatments for mental health disorders and insights into the most profound questions about human nature.

Founded in 2014

Program Directors: Mel Goodale & Adrian Owen; both Western University, Canada

Number of members and advisors: 20

Number of institutions: 18 (in 9 countries)

Disciplines: neuroscience; biological and cognitive psychology; computer science, including artificial intelligence; genetics; anthropology; philosophy, including ethics; law
We are inviting the global research community to identify complex, fundamental questions of importance to understanding the world.

These complex challenges should clearly benefit from a highly collaborative, interdisciplinary research approach.

This call will lead to the creation of new research programs bringing together top researchers across the globe for sustained collaboration.

Interdisciplinary proposals are welcome from all areas of research.
Global Call for Ideas
A Two Stage Process

Stage 1: Letter of Intent
- Short, 3-4 page LOI addressing 4 key criteria
- Provide short CVs for core team

Spring 2018: Shortlisted LOIs notified

Stage 2: Full Proposal Development
- Proponents of shortlisted LOIs work with CIFAR to hold up to two workshops
- Workshops are for 10-15 people to clarify and strengthen the question
- Identify research strategy and potential team
- Develop 20-30 page proposal

Spring 2019: Announcement of decisions
Global Call for Ideas
Stage 1: LOI Criteria

Research Significance

– A complex research challenge that would benefit from an interdisciplinary and international research approach.

Potential Impact

– The potential for the proposed research program to make an impact on our understanding of the world using CIFAR’s research model.

Excellence of Research Team

– The credibility and academic excellence of the core group and how each member can uniquely contribute their expertise to addressing the research challenge.

Potential Leadership

– The leadership potential within the group with commitment to research impact and deep collaboration.

Due January 21, 2018
Global Call for Ideas

Stage 2: Proposal Development

Workshop:

CIFAR organizes and funds up to two ~2-day workshops per proposal in Toronto.

CIFAR works with teams to identify potential composition of final team.

10-15 participants selected on basis of international expertise and potential engagement.

Full Proposals will:

- Develop and expand on the four LOI criteria with proposed research team.
- Further articulate the nature of the research challenge and identify additional resources needed to make progress.
- Outline a plan for inclusivity among research group.
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Assessment and Evaluation

LOIs assessed by International Review Body

- This body consists of high caliber, international research leaders
- These researchers are chosen for breadth and interdisciplinary perspectives
- This group will evaluate LOIs against criteria and make recommendations to CIFAR’s Research Council for full proposal (workshop) stage

Full proposals assessed by International Assessment Panel

- Team of research leaders with emphasis on breadth and experience in similar assessments. Full proposals will be presented to the International Assessment Panel in early 2019.
- This panel will make recommendations to CIFAR’s Research Council
- The Research Council will recommend funding decisions to CIFAR’s President and the Board of Directors will make final decisions.
Global Call for Ideas

Next Steps

Process formally launches **November 15, 2017**

Preliminary details are posted at [www.cifar.ca/cifar-global-call-for-ideas/](http://www.cifar.ca/cifar-global-call-for-ideas/)

Applications will be accepted electronically only:

- CIFAR Portal for required registration opens November 15
- Draft submissions can be saved in system and updated
- **January 21, 2018 at 11:59pm (PST)** is strict deadline

For questions, please contact: [globalcall@cifar.ca](mailto:globalcall@cifar.ca)
Thank you
The CIFAR Global Academy offers a range of opportunities for early career researchers from across the globe to learn from and collaborate with some of the world’s best minds, strengthen leadership skills and build diverse networks.

A key component of the Global Academy is the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars Program
Global Scholars supports young investigators at a pivotal time in their careers. Opportunity to be mentored and network with top-tier research leaders and form new collaborations with colleagues in diverse disciplines.

Global Scholars receive:

- $100,000 CDN in undesignated research support
- A two-year appointment to a CIFAR research program
- Specialized leadership and communications training

www.cifar.ca/global-scholars