

Research, Growth, and Community: We Are All Researchers

Emma Smith, PhD

Humber College Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning

The sharing of knowledge and professional practice is a communal value in the Office of Research & Innovation (ORI). Moments of curiosity are carved out across meeting tables, conference calls and passing conversations. It is through these interactions that creativity is encouraged, and perspectives are expanded. A burst of innovation or point of reflection is often a celebrated takeaway.

These ‘knowledge exchanges’ have become central to my growth as a researcher. Moments of encouragement are mutually communed across the global experiences and diverse expertise of colleagues. We create, strategize, challenge and commend one another—capturing the very essence of academia.


These conversations also serve to elucidate uncertainties or unknowns about a particular topic. Described as a ‘point of awakening,’ we are often reminded of how research happens in daily life. We all identify problems, develop innovative solutions and find belonging as part of a community. The search through local grocery flyers for the right flavour of spaghetti sauce, the navigation of an optimal transportation route to arrive at a friend’s house, or the perusal of several movie reviews for that desired moment of escapism. These are daily examples of inquiry and result.

Research exists around and within us—and we have a responsibility to share.

The Journal of Innovation in Polytechnic Education (JIPE) is an extension of ORI’s culture. It is a space for knowledge exchanges to flourish and for questions to be pondered. A space for dynamic topics and multi-method projects to be showcased. This collection of articles embodies themes of growth, resilience and innovation that spread within the Humber community and beyond. I invite you to explore them as part of your own daily research.

Author Note

Emma Smith, PhD, is the Associate Dean of Research and Development in the Office of Research & Innovation at Humber College Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning. She is currently working with the Toronto Police Service on an external evaluation of their Neighbourhood Community Officer Program.

 This article is published under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivatives 4.0 International License \(CC BY-NC-ND 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)